

# Bavarian News

Vol 4. Nr. 15

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

July 30, 2008

**GARMISCH**  
**MP NAMED IMCOM E**  
**SOLDIER OF YEAR**  
■ **PAGE 4**

**HOHENFELS**  
**CO. D CHANGES WORLD,**  
**ONE STUDENT AT A TIME**  
■ **PAGE 8**



**ANSBACH**  
**3-159 TO REPLACE**  
**SISTER UNIT IN IRAQ**  
■ **PAGE 16**

**BAMBERG**  
**S2S HELPING STUDENTS**  
**SETTLE AT HIGH SCHOOL**  
■ **PAGE 19**

**SCHWEINFURT**  
**15TH ENGINEERS REVIVED**  
**AFTER NEARLY TWO**  
**DECADES**  
■ **PAGE 19**

## INDEX

■ **Medical:** Facts on  
Fungus - Preventing mold  
**Page 20**

■ **What's Happening:**  
Find out what's going on in  
your area  
**Pages 10, 11**

■ **Travel:** Amsterdam  
- Until you make the trip  
yourself, enjoy one traveler's  
observations  
**Page 13**

■ **Sports:** Former Great  
Britian National baseball  
coach gives inside tips  
**Page 21**

## Don't miss the fun

**Grafenwoehr will host its 51st German-American Volksfest on the installation at Camp Kasserine Friday through Sunday.**

Come out and enjoy live music, carnival rides, jumping castle, clowns, face painting, games, and more. There will be military displays, food, drinks, and entertainment.

■ **Aug. 1-2: 11a.m.- midnight.**  
■ **Aug 3: 11a.m.-11p.m.**

Opening ceremony begins Aug. 1 at 11 .m. Enjoy reduced prices on carnival rides all day for Family Day.

There will be a special appear-

ance by Star Wars characters, courtesy of the German Garrison 501 Aug. 2. See page 12 for a list of attractions.

Shuttle buses are available from the city of Grafenwoehr and from on-post and off-post Vilseck to the fest ground.

Read the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr newsletter or visit [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil) for the shuttle bus schedule. Everyone is invited to bring the family!!!



## R-E-S-P-E-C-T spells less stigma, better care

by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**  
*Bavarian News*

Soldiers seeking behavioral health care on U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt have a myriad of options for care and treatment: Military Family Life Counselors, Social Work Services, psychiatrists, psychologists, chaplains, and now, thanks to the RESPECT-Mil program, primary care providers.

The Re-Engineering Systems for the Primary Care Treatment of Depression and PTSD in the Military program, or RE-SPECT-Mil, trains primary care physicians to screen patients for behavioral health issues and treat them in a primary care setting.

"The Army is doing a lot more as far as trying to reach out and find Soldiers who are having issues but are reluctant to seek mental health care due to the historical mental health stigma within the military," said Dr. (Maj.) David Johnson, a Schweinfurt Health Clinic psychiatrist.

See SOLDIERS Page 12

**The cycle of deployments has generated a lot more mental health problems in Soldiers who might otherwise never have seen me.**

**Dr. (Maj.) David Johnson**  
Psychiatrist

### Locations

USAG Schweinfurt; **Vilseck**, Germany; and USAG Vicenza, Italy, currently support RESPECT-Mil care facilitators in Europe.

### Visit the Web

For more information about RESPECT-Mil, speak with your primary care doctor or visit <http://www.pdhealth.mil/respect-mil.asp>. Other behavioral health resources are available at <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil>, including the PTSD chain teaching program and video tools for helping families deal with deployments.



*Photo illustration by Bill Roche*

## Memorial park planned for 2SCR's fallen



**An artist's rendition of the memorial.**

*Newly formed Dragoon Foundation raised nearly half of \$45,000 goal, hopes for more donations and to dedicate park by winter*

by **MARY MARKOS**  
*Bavarian News*

During a July 18 memorial service for a fallen comrade, a 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment Soldier noted, "For those of us who serve, there is no more honorable way to leave this world."

For the regiment's family

and friends, there is no greater way to honor the memory of these Soldiers than to erect a memorial.

The Dragoon Foundation, which was established in May by 2SCR friends and family members, is raising money to

See DRAGOONS Page 12

**HOHENFELS**

## ACS rated best in Europe

*Hohenfels receives DA accreditation with score of 98 out of 100*

by **KRISTIN BRADLEY**  
*Bavarian News*

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels' Army Community Service has received Department of the Army accreditation with commendation, scoring the highest of all ACS divisions in Europe.

An inspection team awarded team awarded the ACS a score of 98 out of a possible 100 points, the highest achievement in Europe since new guidelines have been adopted, said Lynn McCollum, ACS director for Installation Management Command-Europe.

"ACS staff is an efficient, well organized, cohesive and highly professional team," said one reviewer.

The accreditation, a process repeated every three years, was conducted July 14-18. Measurements included structure, oversight, management, services, and volunteers.

According to Eva Garrett, acting ACS director, the team has been preparing for this inspection for the past two years. She said the team focused on making sure every detail of the published standards was in order.

"You take guidance when the inspection comes from IMCOM-E, so when DA comes, there are no more corrections to make," she said.

She said the mountains of records and paperwork they are required to keep were organized into binders, which they then had people

See HOHENFELS Page 12



# Q&A

What do *you* like best about living in *Europe*?



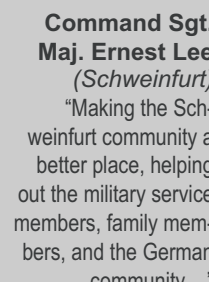
**Cody Crump**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"I like the schools better than in the States. And getting to see the world at my age."



**Deb Lawson**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"The travel. Job opportunities and the convenience of traveling all over Europe is amazing."



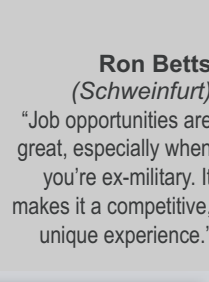
**Sgt. Axel Nkoua**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"It's different from home. You get to discover how different people live compared to you. A good experience."



**Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Lee**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"Making the Schweinfurt community a better place, helping out the military service members, family members, and the German community ..."



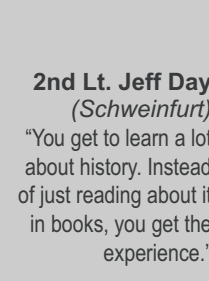
**Cheryl Dean**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"The easy accessibility to wonderful places that you thought you'd never see."



**Ron Betts**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"Job opportunities are great, especially when you're ex-military. It makes it a competitive, unique experience."



**Chief Warrant Officer Dustin Mortenson**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"It's good; I like being in a different culture."



**2nd Lt. Jeff Day**  
(Schweinfurt)  
"You get to learn a lot about history. Instead of just reading about it in books, you get the experience."



# GI Bill makes higher education easier than ever for Soldiers

Most of you have heard of recent changes to the GI Bill. Designed to be similar to the education bill after World War II, it has major changes that continue to evolve as Congress passes legislation.

While we know many new aspects of the program, we strongly recommend visiting [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) for up-to-date information on this and other education benefits.

Most of your benefits depend on the amount of federal service you have accrued since Sept. 10, 2001. If in doubt, contact the local education center for clarity.

Below is a list of benefits, assuming a Soldier has accrued 36 months of active duty after Sept. 10, 2001.

Payment can begin Aug. 1, 2009 for future education (there is no backdating of payments for past education right now).

- Can receive benefits if still on active duty (but not housing allowance and books and supply stipend)

- Be honorably discharged - see education center if discharge is not honorable to see if benefits are still applicable (for example: hardship, condition interfered with active duty)

- Tuition and fees not to exceed the most expensive in-state public institution of higher education



- Monthly housing allowance equal to the BAH amount payable to sergeant (E5) with dependents, in same zip code as school (Not if on active duty)

- Yearly book and supply stipend of up to \$1,000 (not if on active duty)

- A one time payment of \$500 may be payable to certain individuals relocating from high rural areas.

- Eligible for 15 years from your last duty day.

- Covers graduate and undergraduate training, vocational and technical training, and foreign training.

- Must have approval of Department of Defense to transfer entitlement to spouse and dependent children -- see Education Center for rules on this entitlement.

This sounds like a great new program and helps provide a benefit commensurate with our service. Refer to the Web site or to the local education center to ensure you understand what your benefits are.

## Foster Homes

We have great families in this community shouldering the challenges of the Global War On Terrorism and being highly functional elements of our society. However there are times when situations occur or families need a break and the community gathers resources to help families in need.

Part of the resources is foster homes. Deciding to be a foster home is a commitment to the community and I encourage all who are interested in this to contact Jay Vilas at [jay.velis@us.army.mil](mailto:jay.velis@us.army.mil) for further information.

## Eschenbach Anniversary

This year is the 650th Anniversary of Eschenbach. As part of the festivities, the city is sponsoring events Saturday and Sunday.

Starting at 6 p.m. Saturday, there is music by Fiddler's Green and Feuerschwanz; historic performances by the medieval actors' group Baieruther Katzbalgerey; a medieval market; and food. On Sunday, there will be a historic fest and market with more than 100 attractions and theater performances of historic events as well as vendors and craftsmen.

Our School Age Services is participating in the theater performances so I invite all of the community to attend and help Eschenbach celebrate their birthday.

In summary, all are invited to attend the annual Grafenwoehr German-American Volksfest at Camp Kasserine running Friday through Sunday. Enjoy carnival attractions, music, food, beer and more.

For more information, contact Neville Paschall at DSN 475-6167. This annual event, at the midpoint of summer, allows our German friends to see what Americans are like and there are a host of events for everyone to participate in.

Thanks again for celebrating responsibly and for making our community the best place to live and serve in Europe.

*Col. Brian T. Boyle*  
*Commander, U.S. Army*  
*Garrison Grafenwoehr*

## A HISTORIC MOMENT

# Army observes 60th anniversary of U.S. military desegregation

Special to the Bavarian News

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services. It was accompanied by Executive Order 9980, which created a Fair Employment Board to eliminate racial discrimination in federal employment.

Segregation in the military did not officially end until the Secretary of Defense announced September 30, 1954 that the last all-black unit had been abolished. However, the president's directive put the military at the forefront of the growing movement to win an equal social role and treatment for our nation's African-American citizens.

The Army, a little slow initially to embrace the change, began integrating units during the Korean War. Eighth Army commanders in Korea began filling losses in their white units with individuals from a surplus of black replacements arriving in Japan in late 1950. By early 1951, 9.4 percent of all African-Americans arriving in theater were serving in some 41 newly and unofficially integrated units. Another 9.3 percent were in integrated but predominantly black units. The other 81 percent continued to serve in segregated units.

This limited conversion to integrated units during the Korean War became permanent because it worked. The performance of integrated troops was praiseworthy with no reports of racial friction.

In December of 1952, the Army Chief of

Staff, Gen. J. Lawton Collins, ordered worldwide integration of Army units. All of the earlier fears cited to support the continuation of a segregated Army proved to be groundless.

There was no increase in racial incidents, no breakdown of discipline, no uprising against integration by white Soldiers or surrounding white communities, no backlash from

segregationists in Congress, or major public denunciations. The Army and the nation were taking the first steps toward racial equality and harmony that would be at the core of the civil rights movement of the early 1960s. The integration of the armed forces did more than just provide opportunity for African-American Soldiers, it opened the door of opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds.

"I think that we're leaders in many areas, but certainly we're leaders in the equal opportunity," said Lt. Gen. (Retired) Julius Becton of the military. Becton was a Soldier who lived through the integration from World War II through the Korean and Vietnam War, and the Army's first African-American three-star general. "We're

leaders in giving all minorities an opportunity to demonstrate what they can do. A point we oftentimes are prone to forget, the order of 9981 did not just help the blacks."

Executive Order 9981 not only opened the door of opportunity for a people from all walks of life, it showed the strength that there is in diversity, which was quickly recognized.

"That order of 9981 helped the entire Army, because it enhanced combat effectiveness," Becton said. "We don't have separate this, separate that, but when you are training together, you're going to be a better Army. We've proven that time and time again."

As part of a continuing observance of Executive Order 9981, the U.S. Army will be highlighting the historic importance of its 60th anniversary through the eyes of Soldiers serving today in a diverse force. The true strength of a diverse force, as first demonstrated in those early days of integration, is being played out in today's Army.

"We are not the greatest Army in the world because we are white or black, but because we reflect the faces of our society," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston. "You learn early on that people can either be successful or not based on their abilities, willingness to make personal sacrifices and their commitment to the team."

**"We don't have separate this, separate that, but when you are training together, you're going to be a better Army."**

**(Ret) Lt. Gen. Julius Becton**

Army's first black 3-star general

## Garrison Customs Office Hours

**Bamberg Bldg.** 7011, Room 124 and 125  
Phone: DSN 469-9312, CIV 0951-300-9312  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

**Garmisch Bldg.** 209 MP Station  
Phone: DSN 440-3601, CIV 08821-750-3601  
Tuesday-Friday 1-4 p.m.

**Grafenwoehr Bldg.** 244, Room 240  
Phone: DSN 475-7249, CIV 09641-83-7249  
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m.-noon, 1-3 p.m.

**Hohenfels Bldg.** 10, Room 118  
Phone: DSN 466-2012, CIV 09472-83-2012  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.

**Schweinfurt Bldg.** 289  
Phone: DSN 354-6842, CIV 09721-96-6842  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-noon, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

**Vilseck Bldg.** 161, Room 127  
Phone: DSN 476-2105, CIV 09662-83-2105  
Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.

# Bavarian News

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Bamberg, Schweinfurt, and Garmisch

Producer: **MILCOM Advertising Agency**  
Roswitha Lehner

Zeilaeckerstr. 35 · 92637 Weiden · Telefax 0961-67050-32

Internet: **www.milcom.de**

Bavarian News is an unofficial biweekly publication authorized by AR 360-1. Editorial views are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The paper is an offset publication prepared and edited by the U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr Public Affairs Office. Bavarian News is printed by Werbeagentur und Verlag Roswitha Lehner and distributed every other Wednesday. Circulation is 11,300 copies. Submissions are welcome. Send letters to the editor and commentaries to PAO, Unit 28130, Attn: Bavarian News, APO AE 09114, or e-mail them to [usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil](mailto:usagnews@graf.eur.army.mil). Telephone the Bavarian News at 475-7113 or fax to 475-7935 with story ideas and events.

**USAG G Commander**  
Col. Brian Boyle

**USAG G Public Affairs Officer**  
Kim Gillespie (475-8103)

**Bavarian News Editor**  
Adriane Foss (475-7113)

**Assistant Editor**  
Katie Cowart (475-7775)

**Grafenwoehr/Vilseck Correspondent**  
Mary Markos (475-8920)

**Garmisch Correspondent**  
John Reese (440-3701)

**Hohenfels Correspondent**  
Kristin Bradley (466-4294)

**Bamberg Correspondent**  
Trecia Wilson (469-1600)

**Schweinfurt Correspondents**  
(354-1600)  
Kimberly Gearhart  
Sandra Wilson  
Lindsey Cole

**Ansbach Correspondents**  
(467-1600)  
Ronald Toland



# Local grads win scholarships

Special to the Bavarian News

The annual Scholarships for Military Children Program winners have been announced and the “Honor Roll” is impressive. Over 5,000 students applied for the scholarships at commissary locations worldwide.

All of the recipients are listed at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org), the official Web site for the program, and all recipients listed below received a \$1,500 collage scholarship.



**Lemuel Lee** is the recipient at Vilseck. Lee’s parents are Samuel and Hannah. She is enrolled, or plans to enroll, at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Lee’s school and community activities include: NHS, President; Varsity Drill Team; rifle team; drama club; peer mediator. Her scholarship was funded through Pactiv/E-Z Foil.



**Judith Vasquez** is the recipient at Ansbach. Vasquez is the daughter of Juan Vasquez-Rivera. She is enrolled, or plans to enroll, at the University of Central Florida. Vasquez’s school and community activities include: Club Beyond Service Project; senior class president; FEA; football manager; basketball manager. Her scholarship was funded through General Mills.

**Ryan Matheson** is the recipient

at Hohenfels. His parents are James and Diane. Matheson is enrolled, or plans to enroll, at Renseelaer Polytechnic Institute. His school and community activities include: student council president; baseball captain; NHS; U.S. model senate; basketball captain. His scholarship was funded through Pactiv/E-Z Foil.



**Matheson** is the recipient at Bamberg. McPherson’s parents are Bernard and Margie. McPherson is enrolled, or plans to enroll, at Alcorn State University. His school and community activities include: community theater; youth teacher; youth choir director; Rising Artist Group;

NHS. His scholarship was funded through Pactiv/E-Z Foil.

The scholarship program is open to qualified children of members of the U.S. Armed Services including active duty, retirees, Guard/Reserve, as well as children of deceased military personnel. Applications are turned in at the commissaries.

Applicants for the 2008 program were required to maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, participate in voluntary school and community activities, demonstrate leadership qualities, and write an essay on the following topic: “Every able bodied citizen should be required to serve for a two year period of time in the military. Why or Why not?”



**McPherson**

## Clothing Sales, Office Source in new location to serve changing population

by **MARY MARKOS**  
Bavarian News

With nearly 4,000 square feet of sales floor, and 50 percent more inventory, the Grafenwoehr Army and Air Forces Exchange Services Military Clothing Sales and Office Source opened July 16 in Building 534, across from the Grafenwoehr Bowling Center.

“The synergy for the post is here,” explained Chris Litch, AAFES visual merchandiser manager for the Grafenwoehr Consolidated Exchange. “We moved to Clothing Sales and Office Source to this area. Now everything for AAFES is right here.”

Elke Luber, military clothing sales store manager, however, said the location of the combined stores is not the only benefit for customers.

“First we were strictly training,” she said, referring to the post’s transition from primarily a primarily training population to an increased permanent party population. “Our business is

changing.”

Due to the increased in permanent party customers, MCSS has stocked new items and additional sizes.

“Just on the inventory level, there is a 50 percent increase... that’s new items,” she said. “We increased 75 percent in just ‘dress greens’... For the wives, we now carry items in support of deployed service members.”

The souvenir section, Luber said, went from a 12-foot section, to a 20-foot section, including items for children and unique items specific to Grafenwoehr.

Retiree items, which were not stocked in the previous store, are now available.

The store doubled the inventory of combat boots and now stock miniature and full-sized medals. Army combat uniforms are also being carried in eight additional sizes, with an increase in the sales section from 12 feet to 28 feet.

The size of the new store allowed for what Litch called a “one-stop shop,” with military clothing, bulk items, and office supplies.

“Compared to the old store, we combined MCSS stationary, notebooks, and Office Source merchandise together, so we increased our stock assortment of 30 percent,” Luber said.

With the increase, Litch said he felt confident that anyone from the single Soldier to the large family will find what they need.

Large families and units, he said, will also benefit from the 50 percent increase in bulk merchandise stock.

But customers should not be intimidated by bulk items, said Litch.

“We have individual items for purchase,” he said. “You don’t have to buy the bulk of paper... you can buy just a ream.”

Units or military members who purchase items with their government SmartPay charge card receive a 10 percent discount.

“Special shopping times can be arranged with management for large unit purchases,” said Litch.

The new store is open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

## JMTC puts local summer hire students to work

by **KATIE COOPER & CHANTEA LEOTA**  
Special to the Bavarian News

Patrons may notice new faces around town when they visit frequently used offices, such as Legal, Transportation, and School Age Services. The faces are young, energetic, and from area high and middle schools.

“The intent for hiring the students was to provide students with preparation for future education and career goals, while also supporting the Army’s mission,” said Tamika Lewis, summer hire program coordinator. “Having good work experience before you get a real job is an asset.”

On June 23, Garrison Grafenwoehr students met at the post’s Tower Theater for the kick-off orientation for the summer hire program, a six-

week opportunity for students to gain paid job experience.

“I feel the summer hire program is a great way to introduce our students to how things work in a military/civilian environment,” said Col. Timothy Touzinsky, Joint Multinational Training Command chief of staff. “It shows them what the work environment looks like, feels like, and how we get things done. It helps our young people learn about responsibility and make a little money along the way.”

The JMTC offered positions for summer hire at several of its locations to include the Public Affairs Office, the command headquarters building, the Joint Multinational Simulations Center, and the airfield.

“I hope to see what I want to do with my life,” said Daniel Lamp, 17, of Vilseck High School.

“I hope to receive knowledge about being a pilot, and use it for future reference,” said Lamp, who is thinking of joining the Army. “I joined the summer hire program to find out what else I can do for the Army, and I get to work with helicopters.”

Last year, JMTC was able to hire only six summer hire students. This year, the command hired more than 30.

“The summer hire program gives our kids an opportunity to get a job overseas,” said CW4 Steven Shaw, airfield commander and supervisor of three summer hire students. “Not only is it a learning experience, but may spark an interest in the area in which they are working. Additionally, these jobs allow the students to see the different opportunities that our military offers and how they are in line with the civilian sector.”

## 2SCR Soldier remembered

by **MARY MARKOS**  
Bavarian News

A Stetson sat atop an M-16 rifle July 18 at the Rose Barracks Chapel in Vilseck in honor of Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dale Vrooman, 4th Squadron, 2d Stryker Cavalry Regiment, who died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Stetson was used in the place of a traditional Kevlar helmet at the request of Vrooman before he deployed, less than five weeks before his death.

“As a cavalry man in 4th Squadron, his passion for all things cavalry was especially deep... He wanted to be



**Vrooman**

remembered in true cavalry tradition,” said Lt. Col. Tom Rickard, regimental rear detachment commander.

“He was a true leader in every sense of the word, and his absence will be felt by the men and women in our squadron long after today,” said Cpt. Meghan Underwood, squadron rear detachment commander

Rickard and Underwood spoke of the dedication and commitment Vrooman, a father of two, had for his Soldiers and family.

This dedication, they said, was obvious when Vrooman, who served as a member of the rear detachment, prepared to deploy.

“Sgt. Vrooman was so excited when he was finally sent a replacement and was given his orders to deploy,” Underwood said. “He knew he would miss his family, but he wanted to lead Soldiers in combat... That was the kind of NCO Sgt. Vrooman was. He would never ask a man to do something he

wasn’t willing to do himself.”

Rickard also spoke of Vrooman as the kind of husband and father every man should hope to be.

“He loved his family deeply, and absolutely beamed whenever talked about his wife and children. He was so proud of Xavier and loved to bring him to the squadron headquarters,” he said.

Underwood recalled how Vrooman’s son would often be heard squealing with delight in his father’s office.

“It was obvious to see just how much Xavier adored and idealized his father,” she said. “I remember how proud he was when Jade was born.”

Vrooman is survived by his wife, Latrecia; his son, Jeremy Xavier; his daughter, Jade Skyy; his father and stepmother, Bruce Vrooman and Sue Vrooman; and his mother and stepfather, Laurie Donahue and Wayne Donahue.

## 12th Chemical Soldier killed in auto accident

by **KATIE COWART**  
Assistant Editor

Soldiers of the 12th Chemical Company, Special Troops Battalion, V Corps gathered in the Grafenwoehr Chapel July 24, along with community members to mourn the loss of Spc. Jose Castro.

Castro, a decontamination specialist, was killed July 11 in a car accident in downtown Grafenwoehr. The accident is still under investigation. Described by Sgt. 1st Class Demitre Thomas as “usually a quiet guy,” Castro was known by his company for always smiling.



**Castro**

## Spotlight on Education



**Name:** Mandy Riggan

**What grade and subject do you teach?** Kindergarten at Grafenwoehr Elementary School

**Hometown:** Spanaway, Wash.

**How long have you been a teacher?** Nine years

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?** I love talking to and playing with kids all day. They are so much fun!

**What advice can you give students to help them succeed?** Never say “can’t.” You can do anything, just try your best

## The Post 9/11 GI Bill

The post -9/11 GI Bill is a new benefit providing educational assistance to individuals who have served on active duty on or after September 11, 2001.

**When is the Post- 9/11 GI Bill effective?**  
The Post-9/11/GI Bill benefits are payable on Aug. 1, 2009, towards training completed after 7/31/2009.

**Am I Eligible?**  
An individual must have a minimum of 90 days active duty after September 10, 2001, and:  
- Be honorably discharged from Armed Forces; or be released from Armed Forces with service  
Characterized as honorable and placed on the retired list, temporary disability retired list, or transferred to the Fleet Reserve or the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or  
- Be released from the Armed Forces with service characterized as honorable for further service in a reserve component; or:  
- Be discharged or released from Armed Forces for:  
-Existed Prior to Service  
-Hardship or  
-Condition Interfered with  
Duty); or  
- Continue to be on active duty.

Visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov) for more info.



# Garmisch's Garced named Soldier of Year

by JOHN REESE  
USAG Garmisch PAO

Continuing a tradition of excellence with the USAG Garmisch Military Police, Sgt. Marco Garced was named the 2008 Installation Management Command's Soldier of the Year in a competition held July 14-17 at Fort AP Hill, Va.

Garced, 21, who was promoted from specialist to sergeant July 2, first represented the Garmisch MPs last year while the garrison still fell under the footprint of USAG Stuttgart. He achieved the level of 2007 Stuttgart SOY, and then drove ahead from there to win the 2008 IMCOM-Europe SOY, following in the footsteps of his senior noncommissioned officer and fellow policeman Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Allison, who won the 2007 IMCOM NCO of the Year.

Garced said he excelled at the physical aspects of the competition, like the physical fitness test.

"I actually did way above the standard. I exceeded over the max score," said Garced. "Anything that had to do with physical challenges I did best in."

During the competition, the temperatures at Fort Hill soared from 90 to 100 degrees with high humidity and the insects didn't make it any better, said Garced, who hails from the milder weather of White Plains, N.Y.,



IMCOM E Public Affairs Photo

**In full battle gear, USAG Garmisch military policeman Sgt. Marco Garced advances during Objective Bravo, the last and most difficult challenge in the 2008 IMCOM Soldier of the Year competition.**

and is now accustomed to the colder Alpine climate of Garmisch.

"The hardest challenge for me was adjusting to the heat," said Garced. "I'm not used to heat like that."

The last day of the competition, Objective Bravo, was the toughest test that included a long, timed road march with full rucksack and weapons.

"It was one big mission. We flew in on Black Hawks, and from there

proceeded about two miles to our objective and came across a (Military Operations Urban Terrain) site," said Garced. "After we completed that, from there we had to march to another area to meet up with another form of transportation. It was a lot of walking in the heat. We started at around seven and didn't get done until seven that night."

Garced did well in Soldier

knowledge as well, but pulling duty at a higher altitude in a cooler climate put him at a disadvantage during weapons qualification with the M-4 rifle.

"Usually I shoot very well, but that day it was difficult with the heat, and the sweat getting in my eyes," he said.

Garced has the following simple advice for the 2009 Soldier of the Year: train hard!

"PT every day and study every day. You definitely need to study, its going to help you out a lot," said Garced. "You're going to test yourself, trust me. You've just got to be ready."

Two fellow MPs, Sgt. 1st Class Allison and Sgt. Jerame J. Stoffer, provided guidance to Garced as he trained up for the competition.

"Sgt. 1st Class Allison helped get me ready, and Sgt. Stoffer put much time and effort into demonstrating different equipment I hadn't been able to get my hands on," said Garced.

If the garrison didn't have a particular piece of equipment physically, Allison or Stoffer would

find it in a manual or on the internet and give a virtual class, Garced explained.

"It actually worked. I saw the equipment and was familiar with it, just from seeing it on a computer screen or in a book," said Garced.

The MP Corps runs strong in the Garced family. As an athlete, he was interested in testing himself and joined the Army in October 2004 to follow

**Being an MP in Garmisch, it's a tight-knit group, a close family. I feel like I have a lot to offer a line unit.**

**Sgt. Marco Garced**  
2008 IMCOM-E Soldier of Year

in his father's footsteps. His father, a veteran, returned to duty as an Army Reserve MP when Garced enlisted, and is scheduled soon to pull a training cycle as a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson, S.C. His younger brother Raymond is also a MP currently serving at Fort Carson, Colo.

With his enlistment ending soon, Garced has already decided to re-up.

"Being an MP in Garmisch, it's a tight-knit group, a close family. I feel like I have a lot to offer to a line unit," said Garced. "I'd like to go to Fort Carson and get into a line unit with my brother."

## Sunshine, golfers come out for Garmisch Commander's Cup

Story and photo by ANDREA WINTER  
Special to the Bavarian News

The 31st Annual Commander's Cup, hosted by Garrison Manager Karin H. Santos, took place July 19 at the Family Morale, Welfare and Recreation Alpental Golf Course in Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

The winner of this year's Commander's Cup is Olga Neuner from the Land-und Golf Club Werdenfels with a net of 39. This was Neuner's second win; she first won the cup in 1997.

One of the 40 participants was Jack Hite, who was the manager at the Garmisch Alpenhof Hotel in 1945. Hite has played in every traditional tournament since the first one.

Ms. Inge Woerndle, 92, a long-time Armed Forces Recreation Center employee and known around Garmisch as "The Voice" (she was an announcer for the 1936 Olympic games held in Garmisch) emceed the awards ceremony.

As the starter Woerndle insured all of the golfers got on the course on time.

The warm summer day was a welcome surprise for the golfers. The weather has been unseasonably cold and it rained for days before the tournament, and it rained again all of Sunday.

In 1975 the commander of the Garmisch garrison, Col. Stan Kanarowski, held the first German-American Commander's Cup golf tournament. Since then the tournament was only cancelled twice. In 2006 the course was

flooded, and in 2007 Garmisch was in transition of authority from Stuttgart to Grafenwoehr.

■ Best Brutto: (30) Dr. Jack Clarke, Loisach Golf Association (LGA).

■ Best Military: Sgt. Elia Tautua (LGA), Marshall Center.

■ Net Class A: 1. Larry Steinman, President LGA (37), 2. Andrew Hendrickson, LGA, (36).

■ Net Class B: 1. Olga Neuner, LGCW (39), 2. Peter Liebetanz, LGCW (36), 3. Shoko Preissler-Kato, LGCW (33).

■ Net Class C: 1. Stefan Schmidt, Focus GC (37), 2. Walter Zuerker, LGCW (36), 3. Dr. Ulrich Platzer, GC Tutzing (33).

■ Seniors Brutto: Guenter Neuner, LGCW (25).

■ Seniors Net: 1. Dr. Franz Twardy, LGCW (33), 2. James Buckley, LGA (32).

**(At right) Olga Neuner reclaims the Commander's Cup and jacket as local celebrity and emcee Inge 'The Voice' Woerndle announces the win. The Professional Golf Association tradition of presenting a Masters winner with a green jacket was adopted by former garrison manager Mike Woywod about 10 years ago, beginning as a humorous perpetual award that today is a serious prize.**



Photo by John Reese

**President Alois Glueck, Bavarian State Parliament, is briefed by U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Manager Karen H. Santos at the garrison headquarters July 23.. The briefing, conducted in German, called attention to the contributions made by the U.S. Army in Southern Bavaria. Glueck and his staff were introduced to the garrison officers and later took a tour of the facilities.**

## German army, Garmisch MPs host weapons competition

by Sgt. JERAME STOFFER  
USAG Garmisch Military Police

The U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Military Police and the Bundeswehr hosted two shooting competitions July 1-2, the first by the MPs for an international group of 18 warrior students from the NATO School in Oberammergau, the second by the German soldiers for the Americans.

The international group, representing Germany, Romania, Poland, Croatia and the United States, and ranging in rank from specialists to colonels, spent the first of two long and hot range days firing American M-16 and M-9 weapons. Some of the soldiers had not touched a weapon in more than 10 years, while others are pilots who had never fired a rifle, so patience and courtesy were employed to overcome the language barriers and yield positive results.

The Bundeswehr hosted a Schutzenschnur (German army marksman award) range July 2, using the 7.62 MG3 and 9mm pistol for the Garmisch MPs and a small group of Soldiers from USAG Grafenwoehr, giving the American a shot at the much coveted Schutzenschnur.

These ranges are held to demonstrate cooperation between NATO countries and to boost morale, allowing realistic hands-on

weapons training for those who had never picked up a NATO allies' weapon.

All of the Soldiers expressed their gratitude to those who helped make the event possible. On their assigned days of range operations, the American and German soldiers worked hard to keep a constant rotation of ammunition and supplied steady firing lines. The hot sunny weather made the going sweaty but the language barrier didn't affect an internationally mixed group of warriors. Everyone was there for the same reasons: to learn from each other, have a good time, and shoot.

The appropriate marksmanship devices for the Soldiers' uniforms will be awarded publicly at a joint international ceremony held at the NATO School in Oberammergau Germany in the coming weeks. The U.S. Soldiers, who qualified for the German Schutzenschnur July 2, by order of marksmanship, were:

Gold – Sgt. Jerame J. Stoffer

Silver – 1st Sgt. John A. Alam, Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Allison, Sgt. Christopher Fimpel, Sgt. Marco Garced, and Spc. Jonathan L. Watson

Bronze - Staff Sgt. Kenneth Banks and Spc. Marcus T. Cosby.



# Staff ride to France boosts Falcons’ camaraderie, knowledge of war, area

by Capt. RICHARD BERRY  
JMRC Falcon Team

While helicopters are usually their preferred mode of travel, members of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center’s Aviation Detachment Falcon Team recently hit the streets of France on foot for a unique history lesson.

Ranging in rank from private first class to lieutenant colonel, 26 Falcon Team Soldiers said bon voyage to Hohenfels and headed to Eastern France for a battlefield staff ride focusing on World War II battle sites.

An unusually high operations tempo pressed Falcon Team leadership to leave behind several senior team members to handle mission support. The extra space was good news for several junior enlisted Soldiers and noncommissioned officers.

Lt. Col. Jim Barker, Falcon Team lead Observer/Controller, said that including Soldiers of all grades contributed to the success of the staff ride.

“This is the first staff ride I have been on that included Soldiers of all ranks,” Barker said. “I was particularly impressed with the amount of preparation and enthusiasm exhibited by the most junior Soldiers on the trip.”

Pfc. Joshua Ashcraft, an air traffic control maintenance specialist, said at first he wasn’t interested in the trip because he thought it seemed



**Soldiers from the JMRC Aviation Detachment Falcon Team watch as British Army Brigadier John Smales (retired) points out Maginot Line fortifications along the French/German border, constructed in the time period leading up to World War II.**

too much like a tour. Now that he’s experienced one staff ride, he’d like to go on others.

“The days were full of history and the nights were a good time to relax,” Ashcraft said. “Trips like this allow soldiers of all ranks to talk to one another in a relaxed environment.”

The staff ride introduced Soldiers to the 1940 Fall of France battle and the Battle of Sedan. Led by retired British Army Brigadier John Smales, the Soldiers received a presentation detailing the German Armed Forces invasion of France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Driving on a tour bus along the famous French-constructed Maginot Line toward Bouillon, Belgium, the tour guide showed documentaries about German small arms fire

used during the war and about German tanks, known as Panzers.

France constructed the Maginot Line along its borders with Germany and Italy after World War I. The structure includes various defense mechanisms like tanks, machine gun positions, and concrete barriers. The line was long regarded as being impenetrable. The German forces avoided the line by simply going around it.

After touring key terrain in Sedan and Stonne, France, the team explored the battlefield around Arras, France. After fierce battles in France, German troops had finally broken through all Allied attempts to stop their drive north and split the Allied Armies in two.

Though they obviously knew before the staff ride how World War II ended, the Falcon Team enjoyed literally walking the path of those who fought so hard for freedom.

Nightly discussions about the battles and campaigns strengthened the team’s knowledge of how France fell in 1940, and further enhanced unit cohesion after having shared the rewarding historical experience together.

“I know it was a personal and professionally rewarding experience they will not soon forget,” Barker said of the trip.

“I would go on more staff rides,” Ashcraft said. “They proved an opportunity that you sometimes would miss out on if (you) tried to do it yourself.”

## 1-4 Inf. takes to the sky in Romania

Story and photo by  
Pfc. GERALD WILSON  
JTF-E Public Affairs

A group of Hohenfels Soldiers arrived at a mock Iraqi village to apprehend a prominent insurgent during a July 11 training exercise at Romania’s Babadag Training Area.

Most of the Soldiers had seen this type of training before, but what made this mission different was arriving at the town via air assault.



**A Black Hawk helicopter deposits a squad of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment Soldiers near a village known to house a high value insurgent target, during training at Babadag Training Area in Romania.**

“It is great to use the helicopter for this exercise,” said 1st Lt. Jared Tomberlin, a Company B platoon leader with the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment. “It is something we don’t get to do often back home, so it was an awesome rush for my guys.”

The Soldiers are training in Romania alongside their Romanian Land Forces counterparts as part of Joint Task Force East.

The training mission was to conduct a raid on a village known to house a high value target. The unit sent one squad in by Blackhawk helicopter, while the rest arrived by ground transport.

“It is good for my Soldiers to incorporate the use of helicopters alongside the trucks into their training,”

Tomberlin said. “It allows them to truly get a feel for what things may be like downrange.”

Throughout the course of the exercise a squad from each platoon has been attached to a Romanian company from the 21st Mountain Battalion, and a Romanian squad was assigned to the 1-4 Infantry Battalion. According to Tomberlin, both units meshed well and saw many similarities in the procedures used by their Romanian counterparts.

“They use our tactics, only tailored slightly to fit their weapon systems,” Tomberlin said. “You can really see a lot of our military’s influence in how they conduct business.”

Tomberlin said he was very pleased with his team’s performance.

“All the men knew what they were doing, they knew their positions and where they needed to go,” he said. “There was a lot of good communication out there and hard-

pushing to accomplish our mission.”

He said half of his Soldiers are new to the service and the realistic training was a great opportunity.

For Spc. Robert Newman, the training was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Unlike many of his fellow squad members, Newman has been downrange and found the BTA training vital.

“The overall training we have received here has been great,” he

said. “This is the first time I have ever worked with Soldiers from another country and I found them just as willing to head into the fight as we are.”

Newman said there are several aspects of the training he will take back to Germany.

“The movement training we received and how to control your troops and get them where they need to go to ensure they get back home safe has been crucial,” he said.



## BLACK Violin

**Black Violin, a musical duo that blends hip-hop with classical violin, performed at Hohenfels July 16 at the Community Activities Center.**

Upcoming shows include “Beautiful Generation” Aug. 19 and “Off the Wall” Sept. 17. All shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. at the CAC. Admission is free. For more information, contact Hohenfels’ Morale, Welfare, and Recreation office.

Photo by Mary Markos





A Soldier from Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, known as Team Dragon, is greeted by family upon his return from Afghanistan. Co. D deployed to Zabul Province Jan. 29.

Photo by Troy Darr

# Co. D makes world of difference for Afghan students, returns home to warm welcome

by KRISTIN BRADLEY  
Bavarian News

U.S. troops have been in Afghanistan now for almost seven years, since late 2001.

At times during those past seven years, military activities in Afghanistan were overshadowed in the news by coverage of Iraq. And although media attention has recently been directed back to the small Asian nation, Zabul Province is rarely mentioned.

Accordingly, when Company D, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment from Hohenfels, Germany, deployed for the second time to Zabul Province in January, no one really expected them to change the world.

And they didn't.

## No miraculous solution

They did not find a miraculous solution to a confusing conflict. They did not rid the world of terror once-and-for-all. And they didn't make the headlines on CNN.

But by one significant measuring stick, they made a world of difference to a group of people oft forgotten.

When Delta Soldiers arrived at their posts in Afghanistan, the number of children who regularly attended school around the three maneuver platoon operating areas was, at best, estimated at about 12.

By the time they left, that number had skyrocketed to more than 150 students, according to Co. D Commander Capt. Wayne Keeler.

"These kinds of numbers you can't argue with," said Keeler. "These kids don't attend school because the Taliban tell them it's against the law. They do attend school because the Taliban is not around to threaten them anymore."

According to Keeler, when a unit deploys

to an area, they assess the surrounding villages, asking people about how safe they feel and how often they see the Taliban.

## Watching the numbers

Based on their preliminary assessments, Co. D formulated and executed a plan for each region. At the end of their deployment, they reassessed the areas. It was during the reassessment that they noticed the increase in school attendance.

According to Sgt. Jamie Rubio, who was stationed at Forward Operating Base Lane, Co. D began moving into areas that had not seen a U.S. presence in more than a year, which made the civilians feel safer.

"All they hear is 'Americans are bad.' When we got there, they realized, hey, we're not bad," said Rubio.

"They just heard one side of the story from the Taliban," he said. "They were living in fear. When we came through, they started saying, 'We're gonna stand up for ourselves, there's not gonna be any more of that.'"

Rubio said the more U.S. Soldiers were able to convince civilians that their intentions were positive, the more the civilians would open up and help.

The Soldiers' presence allowed civilians to be helped by their own government.

"Because of (Co. D's) efforts and courage, the government of Afghanistan was able to expand security, economic, political, and social welfare programs in the province. Their accomplishments and efforts truly had strategic impact for the citizens of that province," Lt. Col. John Lange, battalion commander, said during a July 18 welcome home ceremony for the company at the post gym.

Lange also spoke about the close relationship between U.S. and Afghan troops.

"Each day, (Co. D) fought with and mentored Afghan military and police forces," he said.

According to Keeler, every mission executed by any section of the company included either Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police forces.

"They feel the same as us. They're willing to die for us, we're willing to die for them," said Rubio.

That partnership is just one part of a war strategy that places emphasis not just on engaging the enemy in combat.

"We don't treat one (aspect of the mission) like it's more important than the other. It's not enough to just focus on chasing the enemy around," said Keeler, adding that it is important to balance contact with the enemy with contact with the community.

## Balancing enemy contact

A number of Soldiers from Co. D remain in Afghanistan to help the next company from 1-4 execute that balance. Keeler said about 40 Soldiers volunteered to stay behind for another six-month tour. He authorized 20 Soldiers from 1-4 to stay, and another 10 from Grafenwoehr's 5th Maintenance Co., who were attached to Co. D.

After the July 18 ceremony, Soldiers and their families were released for two weeks of block leave.

"Upon return, (Co. D) will fall back into the Warrior formation and Team Dragon and its combat record will be added to the historical lineage of this great battalion," said Lange.

The company will continue to support the 1-4 training mission, jumping right back into their duties by supporting a large rotation in August.

Co. D Soldiers meet with teachers in the local area to inquire about the educational goals of the town. The unit saw a significant increase in children regularly attending schools around their forward operating bases.

Courtesy photo



Soldiers observe the region and interact with local children. Commander Capt. Wayne Keeler said community missions are just as important as combat missions.

Courtesy photo



# What's Happening

## Grafenwoehr/ Vilseck Briefs

### General Officer Announcement

Army Lt. Gen. Carter F. Ham has been nominated for appointment to the rank of general and assignment as commanding general, U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army, Germany. Ham is currently serving as director for operations, J-3, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

### Army medical blog online

The Army Medicine Web page has been updated with new features and valuable information; go to [www.armymedicine.army.mil](http://www.armymedicine.army.mil). Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoemaker, U.S. Army Surgeon General, has launched his own blog at <https://blog.amedd.army.mil/>. The blog is available to read his postings and leave comments.

### Estates claims

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Pfc. Jose M. Castro of 12th Chemical Company, V Corps should contact the following summary court martial officer, 2nd Lt. Sarah E. Turner at DSN 475-9035 or e-mail [sarah.e.turner@us.army.mil](mailto:sarah.e.turner@us.army.mil).

Anyone having claims on or obligations to the estate of Staff Sgt. Jeremy D. Vrooman of Charlie Company, 4th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment should contact the following summary court martial officer, 1st Lt. Camara Brehima at CIV 0152-0598-8703 or e-mail [brehima.camara@us.army.mil](mailto:brehima.camara@us.army.mil).

### School physicals at Vilseck

The Vilseck Clinic will have a special day Aug. 19 for child physicals as required by CYS or school activities. The physicals are for children over the age of 6 years.

Physicals will be provided on an appointment basis. Call the Vilseck Clinic appointment line at CIV 09662-83-2882 or DSN 476-2882 to make your appointment. Bring immunizations records to this appointment.

### Bavarian News break

The next issue of the Bavarian News will be the Aug. 20 issue. The one-week publication break is due to the printer's annual summer break. Please continue to send all newspaper submissions to [adriane.foss@eur.army.mil](mailto:adriane.foss@eur.army.mil) or [katie.cowart@eur.army.mil](mailto:katie.cowart@eur.army.mil). The submission deadline for the Aug. 20 issue is Aug. 12. Please call DSN 475-7113 for more information.

### UMUC fall classes

University of Maryland University College Europe announces Fall Session 1 registration, Aug. 11-22. Students may learn more about admissions, registration, and schedules for undergraduate and graduate courses at [www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu). On-site courses begin Aug. 24.

### Need a training location?

Why not contact your local Joint Multinational Training Command, Digi-

tal Training Facility! All facilities have several air-conditioned classrooms with 16 multimedia computer workstations with Internet access and video teletraining capability.

These classrooms are also ideal for individuals seeking a quiet place to work on-line on self-development courses.

For more information, contact your local DTF manager at the following numbers:

Grafenwoehr DTF - DSN 474-2381 or CIV 09641-454-2381, Location: Bldg 3144 (Camp Normandy).

Vilseck DTF - DSN 476-3758, CIV 09662-83-3758, Location: Bldg 355.

### DeCA seafood road show sails into Europe

Even landlubbers will want to swim into selected commissaries for one of the first-ever seafood road shows held in Europe.

The show will be coming to the Grafenwoehr Commissary Saturday and Sunday.

All sales held 10 a.m.-6 p.m. A variety of seafood products will be offered at great savings: king crab legs and claws, slipper lobster tail, tiger shrimp, Atlantic salmon fillets, tilapia fillets, catfish fillets, tuna steak, and bay scallops.

Some items will be offered loose and weighed to order, while others will be offered in preweighed commercial packages. Bringing a "surf and turf" flavor to the show will be Angus top loin roasts sold at cost.

This Choice product will be available for tasting. Also available will be a selection of seafood recipes for the customers to try at home.

### Vilseck clinic closure

The Vilseck Health Clinic will be closed Aug. 8 for the clinic's organizational day. All emergencies should report to the host nation facilities in Amberg or Sulzbach-Rosenberg. Maps to both hospitals are available at the clinic entrance.

### Cheer clinic next week

Cheer camp for registered CYS cheerleaders will be held Aug. 4-6 at the Rose Barracks Memorial Gym. Cheerleaders aged 3-6 years will meet from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Cheerleaders aged 7 and above will meet from 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. This camp is open to high school girls, but they must register at a CYS office to attend. A parents' meeting will be held for all ages Aug. 4 at 5:30 p.m.

### Get dental care now

The Vilseck Dental Clinic would like to remind the community to seek your dental care now, appointments are available now and into early fall. Access may be limited for non-military personnel during late fall due to operational commitments.

### Military Family Life Consultants available

Military Family Life Consultants are available to help service members, DoD civilians, spouses, family members, and children. The staff is able to address:

marriage and relationship issues, stress and anxiety, depression, grief and loss, and daily life issues. Confidentiality, unless duty to warn situation. You may schedule an appointment by calling CIV 0173-184-7209 or CIV 0152-0293-4290.

### Is your life affected by someone's drinking?

Al-Anon is an anonymous fellowship of family and friends of alcoholics. The Lois & Company Al-Anon Family Group meets Thursdays at 7 p.m. in Grafenwoehr, Bldg. 206 and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in Vilseck, Bldg. 322. POC Ann CIV 09662-702-575 or CIV 01511-590-5090.

### Well-Baby Wednesdays

The Vilseck Health Clinic will hold "Well-Baby Wednesdays" between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. during the months of July and August. Well-baby appointments are check-ups, and immunizations if necessary, for children ages zero to five. Call the health clinic's appointment line at CIV 09662-83-2882 or DSN 476-2882 to schedule your well-baby appointment.

### Gastric bypass group

Group for Graf/Vilseck/Hohenfels meets from 5:30 to 7 p.m. every third Thursday at the Grafenwoehr Library - third floor.

The purpose of the group is to assist and support those who have undergone gastric bypass or similar surgical weight loss procedure and to help answer questions for those who are contemplating a surgical weight loss procedure.

Typical questions include what to eat before and after, how much weight you can lose, problems and complications after surgery, and questions regarding administrative details prior to and after the surgery.

For more information, call Don Prater, DSN 475-7553, CIV 09641-83-7553 at the Grafenwoehr Health Clinic.

## Hohenfels Briefs

### Youth Sports field trips

Tomorrow: Tour of Olympic Park in Munich.

Aug. 15: Ropes course.

Camp cost: \$30, field trip cost: \$25, camp & field trip cost: \$50. Enrollment is at CLEOS, Bldg. 10A. All children that wish to participate in Summer Sporting Camps and field trips must be registered CYS members. For more information on the Summer Youth Sports Camps, call Youth Sports at DSN 466-2558.

### JMRC marriage retreats

Aug. 3-5 and 5-7: JMRC will host two marriage retreats entitled "Get Close before the Next Rotation" each limited to 25 couples at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch.

All childcare and food is included in this Strong Bonds Retreat. The cost is free because the Chief of Chaplains has

made families a priority.

The purpose of the retreats is to strengthen and maintain strong family ties as the Army continues to fight in persistent conflicts. Sessions will focus on building on the strengths you already have and downplaying the weaknesses that have a tendency to make people pull away from their spouses.

For more information contact Chaplain (Capt.) Bob Crowley at DSN 466-3031/2482 or by e-mail at [robert.j.crowley@eur.army.mil](mailto:robert.j.crowley@eur.army.mil).

### Children's newcomers program planned

Aug. 4-8: For children new to Hohenfels the newcomers program is the event of the year to get you in the swing of things instantly with post and school tours, program reviews, bowling, a visit to Parsberg and a special all-day, off-post excursion.

Three separate groups, grades 1-3; 4-6 and 7-12 allow age-appropriate activities and field trips. Grades 1-3 are in the program Monday and Tuesday while the 4-6 and 7-12 groups are out and about on Wednesday and Thursday.

All participants must be registered with CLEOS. Call Precilla Tolbert, Relocation Readiness Program manager, at DSN 466-2084 for all the details and to reserve your spot for this special event.

### Craft Club

Aug. 6: Get together with the girls and chat while working on your favorite crafts. Bring in any portable project and even get help from your new friends. 9:30-11 a.m.

### Parents' Night Out

Aug. 8: Parents' Night Out services are available from 6-10 p.m. to CYS registered children aged infant to 6th grade at the Child Development Center, Bldg. 111. Services include dinner.

Cost is \$16 for CDC-age and \$12 for SAS-age children. Patrons with Deployment Care Cards may use their hours and receive services at no cost, or pay the reduced \$2 hourly rate.

Make reservations and payments at the CDC Annex, Bldg. 44. A minimum of 10 children are required for this event. Reservation and payment deadline is Friday.

Call the CDC Annex for more information at DSN 466-4041/4042.

### First Aid, CPR class

Aug. 9: The next First Aid and Adult, Infant and Child CPR class is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the ACS Conference Room in Bldg. 10.

The cost is \$35. Bring a sack lunch. For more information about the class or to reserve a slot call DSN 466-1760.

### Framing

Aug. 9: Doing your own custom

framing is a great way to personalize your art and awards while saving money.

You will learn how to measure and mat your pictures as well as how to cut and put together frames. Then finish it off for a professional look every time. \$30 class fee includes supplies to frame a 5"x7" picture.

Pre-register and pay at least three days before class. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Beginning crochet

Aug. 16: There are many techniques and styles in crochet.

Come to this class and learn how to begin. The group will make a Granny Square and dish cloth.

Come back later to add skills or get help on your project. Class fee is \$10 plus supplies. Bring your own hooks and yarn if you have them.

Pre-register and pay at least three days before class. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Beautiful Generation

Aug. 19: Army Entertainment presents Beautiful Generation, a high-energy, female fronted rock band. The band hits the stage at 7 p.m. in the Community Activities Center, Bldg. 40.

Admission is free. For more information on Beautiful Generation, check out their website at [www.generationbeautifulband.com](http://www.generationbeautifulband.com).

### Ice cream social

Aug. 22: Meet your teacher, find your room, drop off your supplies, sign up for community activities, and eat some delicious ice cream from 1:30-4 p.m. If you have any questions call the Hohenfels Elementary School at DSN 466-2729.

Schedule of events:

1:30-1:45: Meet at the Hilltop Chapel Center for a welcome by the principal.

1:45-2: Walk back to the school for a ribbon cutting ceremony. Then find your child's teacher on the class lists outside the main door.

2-3: Drop off your supplies and meet your teacher!

3-4: Ice cream social and community events sign up.

### Wilderness first aid

Aug. 22-24: The next Wilderness First Aid class will be held at the Vilseck Red Cross on Aug. 22, from 5-8 p.m., Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Aug. 24 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants must attend all three course sessions. Cost is \$90 per person. Participants should be at least 15-years old and have an attitude mature enough to comprehend and pass the course.

The certificate will be valid for three years and can serve as a First Aid certificate if needed.

For more information call Grafenwoehr at DSN 475-1760, Vilseck at DSN 476-1760 or Hohenfels at DSN 466-1760 to reserve your slot.

## 9th Grade and New Student Orientation

### Thursday, Aug. 21 at 11 a.m.

Students will have a guided tour of Vilseck High School while parents will attend a presentation from the Military Child Education Coalition's Parent 2 Parent team: "Keys to Academic Success: What Every Parent Should Know!" For more information please contact Vilseck High School at CIV 09662-83-2554

**Fall Community Super Sign-up**  
August 12  
9am-2pm  
Bldg 508  
(old SAS Bldg)

**Bouncy Castle Free Treats and Balloons!!**  
Help Us Celebrate the Grand Opening of Nearly New Treasures Thrift Shop Building 508

Just arriving in Grafenwoehr? Wondering what to do when school starts?? See what your community organizations have to offer you - and your children.

Over 20 Community Organizations are invited:  
• Girl Scouts/ Boy Scouts  
• Chapel Services  
• PTSA...and many more!!  
Your One Stop Shop for Fall Activities!!!

**Nearly New Treasures \$10 Voucher**  
When you join GCSC during super sign-up - Visit [www.gcsconline.com](http://www.gcsconline.com) for membership details. Voucher is not valid for consigned items.

Hosted by: **GCSC**  
Visit us Online [www.gcsconline.com](http://www.gcsconline.com)  
Email: [gcscmembership@yahoo.com](mailto:gcscmembership@yahoo.com)



# What’s Happening

## Ansbach Briefs

### Schedule routine and wellness appointments now

The U.S. Army Katterbach Health Clinic will be fully supporting the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade’s upcoming reintegration. Much of the health clinic staff will be focused on reintegration operations, which will limit the availability of appointments.

From the end of August to October, routine and wellness appointments will not be available. The health clinic will continue to provide sick-call coverage and will have limited same-day appointments for acute care issues. Urgent and emergent care will continue to be provided by the nearby host nation medical facilities and providers. If your condition is not an emergency, call the health clinic to get a referral on the economy as needed.

Patients on chronic medications are advised to get prescriptions refilled before the end of August. If you are due for a well woman exam, call the health clinic before the end of August as well. Families of Soldier’s scheduled to PCS and currently enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program should get their records screened as soon as possible. The Soldier’s PCS orders cannot be processed until their EFMP screening has been updated.

For more information or to schedule appointments, call the clinic at DSN 467-3398 or CIV 09802-83-3398 and select the appropriate service from the menu.

### August health assessments

Katterbach Health Clinic has scheduled two additional school and sports health assessment days on Aug. 7 and 14. All parents are encouraged to call the health clinic as soon as possible to schedule appointments for their children.

Be sure to keep your appointment. Clinic staff requests that everyone show up 15 minutes prior so that they can assist as many patients as possible with their health care needs.

For more information or to schedule appointments, call the clinic at DSN 467-3398 or CIV 09802-83-3398 and select the appropriate service from the menu.

### Bleidorn Construction

Due to the need of new asphalt to layer at the Bleidorn Housing Area, residents and visitors will endure further road closures and detours between now and Aug. 5. However, as the work depends on weather conditions, time lines might change. The current closure and detour schedule are as follows:

■ Today: Schlesierstr will be blocked at Bldg. 5084; traffic will be redirected through the recycling yard to reach the other buildings on Schlesierstr. Same closures as the day prior. The parking lot behind Bldgs. 5084 and 5082 can be used, but the lot in front of Bldgs. 5084 and 5082 can not be used. Overflow parking will be the concrete parking area next to Bldg. 5084. Parked cars in front of Bldgs. 5084 and 5082 will not be able to leave the parking area while the top layer is installed.

■ Tomorrow and Friday: Bldgs. 5097, 5081, 5080, 5099, 5107, 5090, and 5091 cannot be accessed by car, and the parking lots in front of the respective buildings cannot be used. Parked cars will not be able to leave the parking area while work is in progress. Overflow parking is available at the concrete area and the parking lots in front of Bldgs. 5084 and 5082. Schlesierstrasse will be blocked in front of Bldg. 5097. A detour to reach the other building will be through the recycling yard.

■ Monday and Tuesday: traffic cannot flow through Pommernstrasse for two days. The gate at Bldg. 5085 will be opened for access into lower Bleidorn. The parking lots in front of Bldgs. 5092, 5093, 5094, 5095, and 5096 cannot be used for one or two days. The parking area will be re-opened as soon as possible. Parked cars in front of the above-mentioned buildings cannot leave the parking area while construction work is in progress. Overflow parking is the concrete parking area next to Bldg. 5084.

For more information, call DSN 467-3205 or CIV 09802-83-3205.

### Skate Night

A skate night presented by Child and Youth Services takes place Aug. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the 3-159 hangar at Storck Barracks. The event is free and open to

the public.

For more information, call DSN 467-2395 or CIV 09802-83-2395. Bring your skates and have a great time!

### Parent Education

Child and Youth Services offer a free parent education class at the Yellow Ribbon Room in Katterbach Aug. 4 and 8. For more information or to register call Central Enrollment at DSN 467-2533 or CIV 09802-83-2533.

### Art Camp

The Cobbled Corner Crafts Center and SKIES unlimited, team up to offer an Art Camp, Aug. 11 to 13. On hand will be the following:

■ Aug. 11: Clay hand building class part one for 1st to 5th graders and a Swiss Chalet Birdhouse building class from for 6th to 12th graders.

■ Aug. 12: Scrape a memory class for 1st to 5th graders and a Tree of Life class for 6th to 12th graders.

■ Aug. 13: Clay hand building class part two for 1st to 5th graders and a “My Room” door sign class for 6th to 12th graders.

Classes for 1st to 5th graders are from 9 a.m. to noon each day, and for 6th to 12th graders from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information or to register, call Central Enrollment Registration at DSN 467-4880 or CIV 09841-83-4880 for Storck Barracks or DSN 467-2533 or CIV 09802-83-2533 for Katterbach.

### Free/reduced school lunch

Free/reduced school lunch applications for the 2008/09 school year are now available. Applications can be picked up at the Army Community Service, any USAG Ansbach Department of Defense Dependents School, or from the School Liaison Office’s information board, located across from the community mail-room boxes in Bldg. 5817 in Katterbach. Once completed, applications, along with a copy of the sponsor’s orders and most recent leave and earning statement, need to be dropped off at the Storck Barracks or Katterbach ACS office. For more information, call DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-83-2883 for Katterbach, or DSN 467-4555 or CIV 09841-83-4555 for Storck Barracks.

### Self-Help hours change

The Illesheim Self-Help opening hours have changed. Opening hours are now Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call DSN 467-4722 or CIV 09841-83-4722.

### U.S. Forces Customs office Ansbach announces hours

The U.S. Forces Customs-Europe Ansbach Field Office’s hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and are closed on federal holidays.

For more, contact Juergen Hemberger at the U.S.-Forces-Customs office at DSN 468-7842 or CIV 0981-183-7842.

### Committee Chair needed

A volunteer position for the Girl Scouts Overseas Committee Chair in Ansbach is currently available. This management position includes direct responsibility over funds, volunteers, and Girl Scouts programs. Girl Scouts offers a training course for this one-year position. Prior experience with Girl Scouts is beneficial, but not required.

For more information, e-mail Betsey Brennan at [betsey.brammen@hotmail.com](mailto:betsey.brammen@hotmail.com), Jamie Clauder at [rmewifejlc05@yahoo.com](mailto:rmewifejlc05@yahoo.com), Rynne Christon at [christon5@yahoo.com](mailto:christon5@yahoo.com), or Marcie Cozad at [gsansbach@yahoo.com](mailto:gsansbach@yahoo.com).

### Retiree Appreciation Day

A Retiree Appreciation Day will take place Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Von Steuben Club on the Bismarck Kaserne, in Katterbach.

Registration is from 10 to 11 a.m. and is open to all retired Soldiers, spouses, and surviving family members.

The RAD is conducted by William Godard, the local Retirement Service Officer, to keep retired Soldiers and their families up-to-date on changes in their retirement rights, benefits, and privileges, and to foster goodwill between the retired and active duty communities.

Contact William Godard at DSN 467-3301 or e-mail [william.godard@eur.army.mil](mailto:william.godard@eur.army.mil).

### Diesel fuel available

Diesel fuel is now available at the Barton Barracks transportation motor pool. Diesel fuel keys are issued daily from 8 a.m. to noon. However, all outstanding fuel coupons need to be used

before the issue of diesel fuel keys.

For more information, call Mr. Tomes or Mr. Hanitzsch at DSN 468-7755 or CIV 0981-18-3755.

### Tax assistance year round

Soldiers returning from deployments have at least a 180 days plus the number of days missed during tax filing season to file their taxes. During this extension period, everything is at a stand still--the clock stops running.

No interest or penalties accrue on amounts owed. But why wait if you don’t have to? Both the Ansbach and Illesheim Tax Centers provide tax assistance service throughout the year.

For more information, call DSN 467-2324 or CIV 09802-83-2424 for the Tax Center at Katterbach, for the Illesheim Tax Center call, DSN 467-4511 or CIV 09841-83-4511.

### Help with a career

The USAG Ansbach Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program provides career development and planning support to all community members.

Employment assistance offered includes: resume writing support, understanding the federal job application process, local national application information, local community jobs and information, educational support services, job searching, walk-in services, appointments and group classes.

The office is located on Katterbach in the ACS building, Bldg. 5817-A, and is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call Erika Turner at DSN 467-2883 or CIV 09802-83-2883.

### Hearts Apart

Hearts Apart is a monthly program designed to help families cope with separation. The program provides spouses with a chance to network, talk to other spouses, and tap into the resources Army Community Services provides.

Meetings alternate monthly between Illesheim and the Katterbach chapel Fellowship Halls.

On Tuesday, the program starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Illesheim chapel Fellowship Hall and ends around 11 a.m.

The topic will be “Exercises and Nutrition; refresh your mind and body.”

For more information on Hearts Apart, call ACS at DSN 467-2553 or CIV 09802-83-2553 or the Family Life Chaplain at DSN 467-2235 or CIV 09802-83-2235.

## Schweinfurt Briefs

### Come to the stress buster

Teens, do you want to end the summer with a bang? The Schweinfurt Youth Center invites you to the Teen Summer Stress Buster Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kessler Field. Celebrate the end of summer with a barbecue, games, prizes, and more. For more information

call the teen center DSN 354-6732 or CIV 09721-966732.

### Camp Beyond

The Schweinfurt Club Beyond high school program invites youth to attend a camping trip to Little Switzerland. This takes place Aug. 8 -10. For more information or to reserve your spot call Sara Doughty CIV 0160-332-1498, or Elizabeth Cable CIV 0175-666-3339.

### Get to know Schweinfurt

The Ledward Army Community Service Center offers the Schweinfurt Newcomers Awareness Program for Spouses once a month to help spouses get acquainted with the Schweinfurt area both on and off post. The August program begins Monday. Classes run Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Friday begins at 8:30 a.m., includes a trip by train, and ends around 5 p.m. For more information or to sign up call ACS, DSN 354- 6933 or CIV 09721-966732.

### Tour Bamberg High School

Child and Youth Services sponsors a Bamberg orientation transition program for high school students going to Bamberg in the coming year. The next orientation will be held Aug. 11-13 and will include transportation, an orientation to the city of Bamberg, and a tour of the American school. For more information, call Beth Potter at DSN 354-6057 or CIV 09721-96-6057.

### Automotive shop updates

The Schweinfurt Auto Crafts Shop has expanded its hours! The shop is now open on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free bay usage is offered every Tuesday, and free assistance is available to jump start autos that have been in storage during the deployment. For more information, call DSN 353-8224 or CIV 09721-968224.

### Super Saturday to the rescue

Do you need a few hours off on Saturday? Schweinfurt’s Child and Youth Services offers Super Saturday Aug. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for CYS-registered children in the community. Care is offered at School Aged Services and the Child Development Center, with a cost of \$12 for SAS, and \$16 for CDC. Registration deadline is Friday. For more information or to sign up call central registration DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-966517.

### Teens can go camping

The Schweinfurt Youth Center is offering a Garmisch camping trip for all high school students leaving Friday morning and returning around 10 p.m. Saturday night. This is a combined trip with all participating Bavarian Teen Centers. The youth will stay in the beautiful mountains of Garmisch in the cozy and quaint Keans Lodge with the option of hiking, exploring, or just relaxing. There will also be the option of white water rafting for 28 euro. Participants must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Cost is \$10. For more informa-

tion or to register call the Schweinfurt Youth Center DSN 354-6732 or CIV 09721-966732.

### Climb that mountain!

Want a chance to climb the mountains? Outdoor Recreation is offering a high ropes course in the Rhoen Mountain Aug. 9. Enjoy beautiful scenery while learning or improving the art of rock climbing. The cost is \$10 and it includes the training, transportation, and all the equipment needed. Bring euros for souvenirs and food. The trip departs from the Outdoor Recreation Center at 9 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m. To register or for more information call DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-968080.

### Become a sponsor

Army Community Service will offer sponsorship training Aug. 12 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Ledward Education Center, classroom 2 . Learn to be a great sponsor to Soldiers and families who are new to the community. Discover resources for newcomers, and maybe yourself as well. For more information or to register, call ACS at DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-966933.

### Enjoy National Cookie Day

The Ledward Library is hosting National Cookie Day Monday. Come to the library and check out different cookies and desserts throughout the day. While you’re there, why not check out books and articles that will help you bake the best sweet treats and meals at home? For more information call the library DSN 354-1740 or CIV 09721-961740.

### Paintball for free

Outdoor recreation continues to offer free paintball every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Soldiers, civilians, and family members 12 and older can partake in paintball for free, including all equipment and 200 paintballs. This is a great opportunity for training and having fun! For more information call Outdoor Recreation DSN 353-8080 or CIV 09721-968080.



### Write your resume

For those seeking employment in the civilian world, Army Community Service is offering a Civilian Resume 101 course Aug. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. Get training on the three most common types of civilian resumes as well as other writing topics. For more information call the Ledward ACS DSN 354-6933 or CIV 09721-966933.

### Sign up for a night out

Child and Youth Services offers Parents’ Night Out, a chance for parents an evening off for low cost. This takes place Aug. 22 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Available for School Aged Services and Child Development Center children for \$15, one meal is served.

The child must be registered with CYS. Sign-ups begin Friday, and last day to register is Aug. 18. For more information or to sign up call Central Registration DSN 354-6517 or CIV 09721-966517.



## USAHC BBG Sports Physical Day

**Appointments Only:**

- What:**
  - Physicals for CYS Sports, Boy Scouts, Middle and High School Sports, etc... (Excludes all active duty and family member periodic physicals)
- When:**
  - August 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> (0800-1530; lunch 1200-1300)
- Where:**
  - USAHC Bamberg
- What to bring:**
  - Shot records★
  - CYS/Organization Forms (already filled in with patient information)
  - Snacks and reading material
  - Please have your children wear shorts & a t-shirt.

★ Please call 469-1750 for appointments or more information.



# Garrison snapshots



Photo by  
Adriane  
Foss

USAG Grafenwoehr brought in a Department of the Army Casualty Mobile Training Team July 14-18. The Casualty MTT trains and certifies casualty managers on new standards for notification and casualty assistance officers. The training culminated with CMs testing their new skills by allowing them to instruct future CNO's/CAO's. This training is highly sought after by those in casualty field. The end result from all this is simple," said Mario Mena, Grafenwoehr's assistant casualty manager. "The garrison casualty managers will be able to provide a higher level of service to the surviving spouses of those who have sacrificed all."



Photo by Mary Markos

Col. Joseph Brendler (left), 2nd Signal Brigade commander, presents Lt. Col. Mark Baxter, incoming commander, with the guidon July 14 at the 69th Signal Battalion change of command ceremony. Baxter replaces Lt. Col. Scott Baer, who was reassigned to 5th Signal Command as the G3.



Maj. Carlos Lopez (second from left) and other Soldiers from the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Iraq receive care packages from Grafenwoehr's Cub Scout Pack 261 and Boy Scout Troop 261. Thanks to donations from the community and from The Transatlantic Council, the Scouts were able to send 115 cases of popcorn to all our deployed troops.

Courtesy photo



A Camp Adventure staff member teaches Denise Ludwig, 10, of Kaltenbrunn to bat at the Youth to Youth program Fun Day July 23. The program brings German and American youth together through sports.

Photo by  
Mary Markos

## Dragoons Foundation seeks to support 2SCR families

continued from Page 1

build a memorial and park to pay tribute to the regiment's more than 20 Soldiers who died in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2007-2009. Plans for the park, which will be located across from Bldg. 612 on Old Ironside Strasse, at the bottom of the hill near Vilseck's Memorial Gym, include benches for quiet reflection, a marble monument flanked by historic 2SCR vehicles, and a grove of trees.

Park planners hope to plant a tree for each fallen Soldier. "We want (the park) to be a place of reflection," said Wendy Dykema, Dragoon Foundation vice president. "These guys are heroes. We want it to be a place where people can reflect on past sacrifices." The memorial, made of stone imported from Italy, will hold the names of all 2SCR Soldiers who died answering the call of duty. While some aspects of the park are still being planned, Maj. Tiger

Bartle, 2SCR FIRES Squadron rear detachment commander, said he expects the park dedication on, or around, Nov. 25. The park, however, is only one mission the Dragoon Foundation has undertaken since its inception. "Our main mission is to support Soldiers and families," Dykema said. "There's a lot of things that come up during a deployment. We're an avenue (that families) can reach out to." She said the foundation allows friends of the regiment a flexibility that

Family Readiness groups can't. Bartle agreed. "An FRG has limitations on what it can and can't do," he said. "You can't build a memorial with FRG funds. And FRGs can't do things like scholarship funds... If we determine there is a need, we can take care of it." With donations from the 2d Cavalry Association and U.S. Army Grafenwoehr community members, the Dragoon Foundation has raised about \$20,000, nearly half of their \$45,000 goal.

But Dykema said continued donations are essential to making sure the memorial is worthy of the sacrifices made by those it will be erected to honor. "(It will) have a profound effect on how we remember these (Soldiers)," she said. To make a tax-deductible donation to the Dragoon Foundation, visit [www.dragoons.org](http://www.dragoons.org) and click on the OIF Memorial tab. Dragoon Foundation membership questions can be mailed to [dragonfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:dragonfoundation@yahoo.com).

## Soldiers less likely to fall through cracks with new RESPECT-Mil

continued from Page 1

With RESPECT-Mil, patients answer questions in a survey format during primary care visits, with the results discussed in the same setting. Patients demonstrating symptoms of depression or post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can be identified and treated, without necessarily having to self-report to behavioral health. "A lot of Soldiers with PTSD and depressions were not getting the care and treatment they need and deserve," said RESPECT-Mil administrative assistant Garcia Onax. According to the Deployment Health Clinical Center's Web site, patients are "less likely to fall through the cracks" in the health care system with implementation of RESPECT-Mil. "Screening all Soldiers and getting their doctors to talk to them about mental health" is a critical step to treating the increased number of Soldiers with mental health problems, Johnson said.

"The cycle of deployments that (we are) in has generated a lot more mental health problems in Soldiers who might otherwise never have seen me," he added. The Army and the Office of the Surgeon General have both taken steps toward addressing the rising need for behavioral health care and reducing the stigma perceived by those seeking such care. The Army has done so in part by implementing chain teaching programs about PTSD and mild traumatic brain injury, and the OTSG through the creation of RESPECT-Mil. USAG Schweinfurt; Vilseck, Germany; and USAG Vicenza, Italy, currently support RESPECT-Mil care facilitators in Europe, having launched the first phase of the program during the past six months. For more information about RESPECT-Mil, speak with your primary care doctor or visit <http://www.pdhealth.mil/respect-mil.asp>. Other behavioral health resources are available at <http://www.behavioralhealth.army.mil>, including the PTSD chain teaching program and video tools for helping families deal with deployments.

## Hohenfels ACS named Europe's best

continued from Page 1

from outside ACS look at and review to make sure there were no oversights. Sometimes it makes sense to you, but it takes someone from the outside to notice mistakes, she said, explaining why they had three "outsiders" look over their records. "To be accredited is the minimum, to be accredited with commendation is the cherry on top of the sundae," said Stacye Downing, director

of Family, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation for USAG Hohenfels. "They noted that they are a real and true team," she said. "Every single reviewer commented that their interaction is superb." The inspection team included ACS personnel from Installation Management Command-Europe, personnel from Europe Regional Medical Command Family Advocacy Program, and Exceptional Family Member Program, as well as a representative from USAG Garmisch.

## German-American Volksfest Schedule

Don't miss the fun Friday through Sunday at Camp Kasserine!

DATE	TIME	ATTRACTION	CLOSE
Friday	11 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies	Midnight
	11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	German Band in Beer Tent	
	11 a.m.-midnight	Family Day (reduced prices on rides)	
	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Traditional German Band in Beer Tent	
	11 a.m.-7 p.m.	DJ Variety Music	
	2-4 p.m.	Karaoke in MWR Tent	
	6 p.m.-midnight	Traditional German Band in Beer Tent	
Saturday	7 p.m.-midnight	MWR Tent Live Band "Amokoma"	
	11 a.m.	Fest Opens	Midnight
		German Garrison 501 (Star Wars)	
	11 a.m.-7 p.m.	DJ Variety Music	
	3-6 p.m.	Karaoke in MWR Tent	
	noon-8 p.m.	BOSS Sumo Wrestling	
	12:30-5:30 p.m.	Traditional German Band in Beer Tent	
Sunday	1-3 p.m.	AFN Live Broadcast	
	6:30 p.m.-midnight	Traditional German Band in Beer Tent	
	7 p.m.-midnight	MWR Tent Live Band "Jigger Jam"	
	11 a.m.	Fest Opens	11 p.m.
	11 a.m.-7 p.m.	DJ Variety Music	
	1-3 p.m.	AFN Live Broadcast	
	2-5 p.m.	Karaoke in MWR Tent	
	noon-10 p.m.	Traditional German Band in Beer Tent	
	6-9 p.m.	MWR Tent Live Band "Fab Four"	
	6:30-11 p.m.	Traditional German Band in Beer Tent	



# Amsterdam

## City of flowers, museums, pancakes and bicycles

by **BRENDA MIMS & JOHN REESE**  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

A recent visit to Amsterdam with the Garmisch Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation was magical treat with a couple of dramatic flairs. The trip began in Garmisch with a train ride collecting participants along the way at Oberau and Munich. FMWR tours travel on a group ticket, so everyone must be on the train together or they'll have to pay an additional fare.

One traveler departing Garmisch arrived late and leapt aboard the train just as it pulled out of the station. Another train connecting in Munich with a family of five was delayed, almost missing the sleeper train.

Tour leader Paul Dutro, an experienced and unflappable guide, calmly gathered the last of his charges to the group's overnight sleeper train with less than a minute to spare.

Upon arriving in Amsterdam the next morning, the group visited a charming café across from the main train station on the water to relax, have a cup of coffee after the long train ride, and purchase three-day public transportation tickets.

This is a usual feature when Dutro guides tours that allow travelers to explore the city as a group or on their own. After a short orientation, the group was confident enough to use the pass to jump on to any city bus, tram, or boat. Using the transportation pass turned out to be easy and it was a great way to experience the entire city.

The group checked into the hotel, a short tram ride from the train station with a stop a few yards from the front door. One of the first things noticeable about this and most other interiors in Amsterdam are the long, narrow stairwells. The hotel staff opened the door using a pull cord so they didn't have to transverse the stairs.

The other most noticeable feature of Amsterdam was the number of bicycles. There are more bikes than any other form of transportation, and bike paths to accommodate them. People in formal attire pedal past, mothers with babies in little bike seats or in trailers politely jingle their bells, bikes with big bins lumber along with cargos, nuns and priests going about their business—so many bikes! There are an estimated 700,000 bicycles in Amsterdam!

### Dutch hospitality

First on the list of things to see was the Heineken Brewery. Most of the crew was excited to go have beer samples at 10 in the morning, but the family stayed behind at the hotel to let the kids have a nap and a couple of people were more interested in a flea market down the street. Unfortunately for the would-be beer tasters, the brewery was closed for renovation.

Undaunted, everyone jumped on the tram

and headed for a quick lunch at the University of Amsterdam. The cafeteria is open to the public and their inexpensive fare of soups, sandwiches, salads, and hot meals saved many Euros. More on food later . . .

On the way there, Dutro pointed out the only street in town that was connected by three canals, and another interesting centuries-old building that was a home for poor street women.

The Dutch are helpful, wonderful hosts. Holland has a more open feel than many other cities, and one feels a part of the culture instead of just another tourist.

A canal boat ride was not the romantic version offered in Venice, but nonetheless charming with a pre-programmed tour in four languages. No one in the group knew more than a few words in Dutch, but all of the locals we encountered spoke (and weren't offended to speak) English.

On one tram a traveler asked for directions to see if she was on the right bus. When her stop came, the conductor announced, "By special request, this is the stop for the train station. Get off here, go right around the corner and get on No. 9."

The weather was absolutely beautiful! Some of the group jumped on a train and headed out to Kreukenhof, home of the famous tulip park, a sort of mega-flower garden and entertainment park for families.

The vivid colors, perfumed air, music, and relaxed atmosphere were being enjoyed by guests from around the world. Among the different tulips were sculptures available to purchase for thousands of Euros.

One was of a life-sized man and woman kissing as they leaned against a tree. You could really feel the intimacy between the couple.

Another favorite was of a young woman, sitting in the garden with her feet up on a chair. She was surrounded by fluttering birds, which she fed by hand. Her face suggested a peaceful harmony and joy. One was a giant card house, which made one feel as if one had wandered into the "Alice in Wonderland" storybook.

A visit to a music garden refreshed the soul, and climbing to the top of a windmill to see the entire park from above one could also see the flat countryside colored by huge patches of tulip fields. There was an indoor atrium and tulip exhibit, an ancient steam organ playing happy tunes, many exotic flowers, and some of the group searched in vain for the World's Largest Tulip.

### Dining in Amsterdam

Amsterdam is home to many peoples, many nationalities. On every block you can find multiple Indonesian, Surinamese, Persian, Iranian, Iraqi, Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese, even Eritrean shops and restaurants.

The city is rich in international culture, food, and nightlife. Dinner in an expensive restaurant the first night was entertaining but the fare was disappointing. It was easy to

spend one day's food budget on one meal, and not necessarily a good meal.

Wiser, the group decided to stick to modest local fare and enjoyed a variety of ethnic foods. One such inexpensive place was the Upstairs Pancake House, a tiny four-table restaurant that serves thin Dutch pancakes in a variety of styles, with fresh ginger and ham or melted cheese.

A favorite meal was a lovely dinner at an African restaurant decorated with Ethiopian art and packed with diners. You won't find silverware here because the tradition is to eat with your hands off enormous plates using large fermented pancakes to scoop up your food.

Each person orders a main course and it is placed on the community plate in the space directly in front of them. A selection of dips and salads lay in the shape of a star in the middle for all to share. The food was exotic and interesting, and so was the African coconut, banana, and palm beers served out of hollowed-out coconut shells.

### Markets, Museums, and Anne Frank's House

In the next two days, the group split up to visit flea markets, art museums, and the Anne Frank House.

At the biggest flea market, among the clothing, jewelry, fresh produce, and tourist kitsch, was an African man who sang as he went through the streets. He was missing several teeth but had a large smile, clearly enjoying being among the crowds.

He sat down in the middle of the square and began playing a harmonica to the delight of many. He was happy to talk about himself, saying he performs with the local theater and hosts afternoon sessions with local children about responsibility, respect, and social awareness. He has lived in Amsterdam for 35 years and is as much at home here as his native Surinam.

The Reijks Museum with Amsterdam's largest collection of art was undergoing renovations and the line was long. But the museum had taken the most important works by the Dutch masters and consolidated them into one open wing of the huge building.

The somber Ann Frank House is located directly on a canal, normally a cheerful location in Amsterdam. Today the house is a museum and an adjoining house holds a bookstore and Holocaust memorials.

Stepping into the house with a small crowd of respectful pilgrims, there was no clambering to be at the front of the line, just an international crowd waiting quietly and patiently with a mutual reverence for this hallmark location.

Security officers, dressed in suits and ties welcomed guests as they discreetly checked their baggage for weapons or explosives. The

house itself was empty except for the original structures.

After the war, the sole survivor, Otto Frank, (Anne's father) ordered the house to remain unfurnished. Instead, pictures decorated the walls displaying the original outlay as well as who used that room or for its purpose.

Anyone who has read the "Diary of Anne Frank" would recognize the rooms and would be able to picture the people hiding within those walls and the thief who eventually exposed them as he wandered through the house and climbed the narrow staircases.

As you walk through the house there are several short monologues from historians, Otto Frank, and a childhood friend of Anne. They were poignant vignettes, which really examined deep feelings and experiences. The crowds passed solemnly through as if in a sacred place.

At the end of the exhibit one could leave a leaf electronically on the Anne Frank tree and send a video message to friends and family explaining what the visit was about.

A special interactive exhibit in English called "Free to Choose" was the last room before exiting the house. A large screen presented the international audience with different situations, and then the audience voted for what they believed was right or wrong.

The vote was tallied, the results posted, and then the current visitors' votes were compared with previous visitors to get an idea of the overall consensus. The results showed that most of the international visitors were in strong agreement about human rights, freedom of the press, etc.

An unanticipated and lively event that evening was a Netherland-style street protest over housing problems, vacant buildings, squatter's rights, and surveillance cameras in public places. Some protestors were dressing in colorful costumes, like one group in bee costumes. As far as the travelers could see, the event was boisterous and non-violent.

The ride back to Garmisch began okay, but the train got stopped at a German border city when the train ahead caught fire. All of the passengers were stranded. By the time the track ahead was clear, the crew was gone and a full load of passengers had to pack in to the next intercity train that departed Amsterdam hours after our train.

Some quick thinking by guide Dutro saved the group hours when we transferred to a direct train to Munich, and from there the group began to break up in reverse to end the adventure.

Other cities that rely on tourism could learn a few pointers on hospitality from the Dutch. Three days in Amsterdam was not enough to experience everything, but with a veteran guide who knows the ropes it was enough to get a good sampling of the ancient mariner city built on pilings and circled by canals. It will definitely be worth another visit.



Photo by Dawn Lyn

A pleasant way to see Amsterdam is by canal boat. The long boats are plentiful, and the departures are frequent.



Photo by Brenda Mims

More than just the signature tulips are landscaped into the beautiful Kreukenhof, a park about an hour away from the center of Amsterdam.



# ‘Best of Best’ comes to Ansbach

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**  
*Bavarian News*

About 150 hopeful Soldiers, civilians, and family members came out to witness history in the making during U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's inaugural "Best of the Best" talent competition July 19 at the Katterbach fitness center.

"Best of the Best" is an inauguration program in Europe as part of the Army Festival of Arts and Recreation and Events," said Joe Leavell the program's director at the Army Installation Management Command level, out of Atlanta, Ga.

## More than music

However the concept of the program is much more than just (music) performances.

"We want to get the word out now about this program to let people know that it exists, so there is more participation from Soldiers and families in Europe next year. Ansbach has taken the lead on it here in Europe," said Leavell.

"The bigger and later concept is that we want to get it where any

type of artistic talent can enter—singers, artists, painters, static art, photographers, so anyone, any age, and any talent can participate, that kind of idea."

But this is not a replacement for the U.S. Army Entertainment Division's Battle of the Bands, Stars of Tomorrow.

## Now in Europe

Jenny Sullivan, special events and Better Opportunity for Single Soldiers coordinator for U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach brought the program concept with her from the United States, and gave the European event its name.

"This program was created before I knew anything about Stars of Tomorrow or Battle of the Bands. It is a new program created as part of the (Army) Arts and Recreation Festival," said Sullivan.

"This festival is hosted by the Army and includes installations around the world who want to enter (their show) in the competition. The judges are flown in and adjudicate it, and Ansbach is entering its talent show as part of this competition," explained Sullivan.

For its initial phase, Ansbach had three categories—youth and adult, individual talent, and bands. Twenty-three acts, 15 adults and eight youth, participated in the event.

Sgt. 1st Class Steven Stanfill, U.S. Army Europe's senior human resources manager, co-judged the event and said that these types of programs are necessary for families in conjunction with the Army Family Covenant.

## Tangible Benefits

"(The Covenant) has given us the opportunity to do programs like this and without it, we would be losing this type of wonderful entertainment that the community is providing and it's beneficial for the community to see," said Stanfill.

"With back-to-back deployments and Soldiers being deployed for durations like this," said Stanfill, "it is good for us back home and also for our youth to get a chance to entertain their family and friends, and also to videotape to send something from back home for mom and dad to see if they are deployed downrange."



**Erika Chester performs a tap dance routine during the "Best of the Best" talent competition July 19 at the Katterbach fitness center. Chester won the adult dance solo category.**

*Photo by Sgt. Charlie Bennett*

# DPW takes initiative to return honored heirloom

Story and photo by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**  
*Bavarian News*

For many years, a bronze horse stood at the front of the Woodland Inn across the street from the Kitzingen Harvey barracks, thus becoming a symbol for the U.S. Army presence in Kitzingen.

With the closure of the Kitzingen bases, the horse was removed, a fact regretted by the city of Kitzingen and its neighboring village of Grosslangheim.

Looking for a memento of 61 years of close friendly relations with U.S. Forces and families, the city of Grosslangheim sought to obtain the well-known horse.

During last year's winefest in Grosslangheim, the topic was brought up to Timothy Richardson, current U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Director of Public Works and former Kitzingen/Wuerzburg deputy DPW at the time of closure.

After a long process involving the efforts of USAG Schweinfurt, USAG Ansbach, the host nation federal assets office (BiMA), and the town of Grosslangheim, the request was granted to Richardson.

"The town (Grosslangheim) requested it at the last winefest because there were quite a number of Americans who have lived here and moved on, but who come back every year for the winefest.



**Brig. Gen. Paul Wentz, Grosslangheim Mayor Karl Höchner, and USAG Ansbach Director of Public Works Timothy Richardson unveil a bronze horse as Grosslangheim's wine princess, Laura Baumeister, looks on July 18 at Grosslangheim.**

The community really expressed a desire to have it back, said Richardson.

"At the time, Kitzingen was already closed and the horse was removed, so it was not being used by the Army, but it took a year to process the paperwork," he explained. "It was a difficult property transfer because all the real property had already been transferred. So it took the combined efforts of my people at Ansbach, the BiMA—in both Nuremberg and Wuerzburg, and

the Schweinfurt garrison commander—it took all of us—to accomplish (the request) and it took a full year to process everything. We barely got it done in time (for the winefest)."

The combined efforts were successful and the token that the town of Grosslangheim sought was presented to the city during an unveiling celebration July 18.

It was an important moment for Karl Hoechner, mayor of Grosslangheim, who has

fond memories of the U.S. Army presence in Kitzingen.

"Grosslangheim always had a partnership with 701st MSB (Main Support Battalion) in Kitzingen. My wife and I always had our hearts in it. We took this friendship so seriously that we not only attended the official functions, but constantly visited with our American friends at their homes.

This horse was always present—whenever we had a joint meeting, when we celebrated our friendship, when new commanders came into town, and when the last colors were cased. For me it is a fond reminder and the link between our two communities... This is for the town, for everybody," said Hoechner.

Brigadier General Paul Wentz, commanding general for the 13th Sustainment Command in Ft. Hood, Texas, assisted with the unveiling ceremony since he has personal ties to the town.

Wentz was a battalion commander in the area from 1998 to 2000 and the 1st Inf. Div. DISCOM Brigade Commander from 2003-2005 in Kitzingen and used to live in Grosslangheim.

"I felt, at the time when we closed the facility, it was important to leave them something to remember us by. Every time they look at this horse, they'll think about the close relationship with (the U.S. Army). The community has given all Americans that have lived here tremendous support," said Wentz.

## SIMULATION TRAINING

# Europe's only aviation CATT simulator put to good use at Storck Barracks

by **RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**  
*Bavarian News*

Storck Barracks in Illesheim proudly calls itself home to Europe's only aviation combined arms tactical trainer simulator.

Providing units with an opportunity to conduct scenario training as units—attack, reconnaissance, or lift aircraft platforms in a safe environment—the mobile facility supports various aviation training requirements.

A recent beneficiary of the facility is the community's latest battalion to head for Iraq, the 3rd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment.

Lt. Col. Brian Dillon, the battalion's commander, explained how the focused training works for them.

"Most of the missions (while deployed) will be with two-aircraft aerial weapons teams," he said. "So what we are able to do here is get two crews together at the same time, with an air mission commander who is in charge of both of those aircrafts, and then put him in a stressful situation to see how he reacts and how his decision making is.

"It's excellent training and will help us a lot. All of our air mission commanders will have their performance reviewed by me and a

committee of instructor pilots before each air mission commander has to serve in that capacity," said Dillon.

"It's very demanding, they have been put through a lot, and that helps us when we deploy," explained Dillon.

The AVCATT is a combined arms tactical trainer and can conduct up to battalion or squadron sized units, as well as company-sized manned aviation missions in conjunction with ground forces and supports air-ground integration.

The AVCATT requires a 30-day notice for scheduling.

Units can bring their mission plan file to the facility, upload it into the AVCATT system, and train as if it were a real world mission scenario, said Jamie Williamson, the training facility site supervisor.

"What we can do here is tie in six different cockpits or manned modules at one time. By doing that, we can configure them by any of the type of the Army aircraft that are out there right now.

"Not only can we fly it, but we can record everything that is going on—all the voice transmissions and video in the air. Our systems interact together," said Williamson.

Focusing on supporting aviation

units training requirements the facility serves also an economical purpose.

"It's (AVCATT) very economical compared to operating an aircraft for a couple thousand dollars an hour with maintenance costs and actual flying time," said Williamson. "Instead, they can come in here, practice the same mission, and basically rehearse it before they actually go out and execute that mission in real time and real world.

"They can do it in here with people monitoring it, making corrections, and after action review, for less than \$1,000 to \$500 an hour, easy, and I can train six crews at a time safely," he said.

But the mobile trainer does not only serve local units.

"These trailers are portable and there are different pads—concrete platforms throughout Germany that we can mobilize them to. We have been to Grafenwoher, Giebelstadt, Hanau, and Heidelberg," he said.

When training requires relocating the trailers, the facility requests a 60-day advance notification.

For more information or to schedule training, units can contact James Williamson at the Storck Barracks AVCATT facility at DSN 467-5002 or CIV 09841-652063.



*Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.*

## Army Family Covenant update

**Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, V Corps commander, signs the Army Family Covenant with U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Commander Col. Christopher Hickey to symbolize his commitment to Army Families throughout the community. The Covenant, the U.S. Army leadership's show of support to Army Families, was first signed by the garrison's prior leadership in October 2007.**

Since then, the garrison has lived up to the commitment with expanded family services, including child care and special programs such as Skate Night, talent competitions, and children's theater workshops. The garrison has also waived registration fees, offered more free retreats, one-day trips, and renovated several post facilities. For more information, pick up a brochure at the Katterbach or Storck Barracks ACS or Yellow Ribbon Room. Find out about monthly Covenant specials at all FMWR facilities or by e-mailing to [ans-mwr@eur.army.mil](mailto:ans-mwr@eur.army.mil).



# 3-159 readies for Iraq deployment

Story and photo by  
**RONALD H. TOLAND JR.**  
*Bavarian News*

As most of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade reached its 12-month deployment mark in Iraq, the 3rd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment readies for its rotation in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 3-159th Avn. Bn. held a deployment ceremony July 11 at the airfield on Storck Barracks. The ceremony also marked the end of six months of intensive pre-deployment training, which included logging thousands of flight hours, driving tens of thousands

of miles, qualifying in every weapons system in the battalions' inventory, completing convoy live fire, helicopter gunnery training, and their mission rehearsal exercise.

With their training finally accomplished, the battalion commander feels the unit is well prepared for their imminent deployment.

"The Soldiers of this battalion performed superbly during each of these training events," said the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Brian Dillon, "and we are certainly prepared to begin the next phase of this operation."

**I want to assure each family member today that while deployed we will approach each task with caution, mindful of the risk we take.**

**Lt. Col. Brian Dillon**  
3-159 Avn. Bn. Commander

"We want to be prepared as far as possible to start the first day in Iraq ready to execute the mission," said Dillon.

Having increased their technical knowledge through training, the unit is also confident in the care of their loved ones once they deploy.

"Our minds will be at peace knowing that our families will be supported by a strong rear detachment, our redeploying brigade headquarters and sister battalion (2nd of the 159th Aviation Battalion)," said Dillon during a speech July 11.

The commander's assurance in the battalion's training and family support was echoed from higher up the chain during remarks by Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, V Corps commanding general and reviewing official during the ceremony.

"It just shows another unit that has been put together with great leaders, a great training plan, and a great support system—not only from the community, but from the Family Readiness Groups and the brigade rear detachment," said Hunzeker.

"It is a total team effort to get them ready. I feel very confident. This is a truly well trained and best equipped battalion to send downrange," he

said.



The color guard and company commanders of the 3rd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment prepare to case the unit's colors during their July 11 deployment ceremony on the flight line at Storck Barracks. The battalion will be deployed up to 15 months in Iraq, replacing its sister battalion downrange.

absolutely to standard to meet all the training requirements.

"Because they (3-259 Avn.) are going into the same footprint as their parent brigade headquarters (12th CAB), they have had all the situation awareness. They talk daily, they know what to expect, they know what the fight is all about, and they have done that with daily updates," said Hunzeker.

"I have no doubt that they will succeed to the standard with everything they will do in Iraq," he added.

The confidence that Hunzeker and Dillon shared with friends and family during the ceremony, however, did not cause them to forget to extended a wise word of caution.

"I want to assure each family member today that while deployed we will approach each task with caution, mindful of the risk we take," said Dillon. "We ask that you do the same in your daily activities wherever you are during the time that we are away."

## Soldiers conduct split operations during unique RIP

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. BRANDON LITTLE**  
*Task Force XII PAO*

Since the Soldiers in Task Force XII and Task Force 49 arrived in Iraq, their deployments have been a bit different from that of most aviation brigades.

The intertwining relationship between these two headquarters is a byproduct of the drawdown of troops brought in during last year's surge.

Both of the units, due to a mission change, are simultaneously performing a Relief in Place with each other and a different unit in three different places.

### Confused?

Well, you should be.

Task Force XII's deployment began last July, and Task Force 49 deployed here in November to replace the headquarters element of Task Force XII when they received the mission of spearheading aviation support for Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

After the Transfer of Authority was complete, Task Force 49 inherited 2nd Battalion, 159th Aviation Regiment; 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment; 412th Aviation Support Battalion; 2nd Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment – a battalion of National Guard Soldiers from Minnesota, Hawaii, and Washington; and Task Force Hawk – a fixed wing battalion from the Army Reserve's 244th Aviation Brigade.



**Sgt. Myra Diaz (right), a human resources specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force 49, shows Task Force XII's Spc. Ana Gomez how she's been tracking personnel actions during a Relief in Place.**

Once Task Force XII moved to Camp Taji; it was comprised of the 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment – also known as "Task Force Storm;" the 4th Squadron, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment – from Fort Hood Texas; Company F, 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment – an air traffic control unit from Fort Campbell, Ky.; and a Forward Logistics Element from the 412th ASB.

The moves were only a temporary

plan of action until 4th Combat Aviation Brigade deployment to MND-B, but the future plans for Task Force XII and 49 were undetermined.

Now that 4th CAB has arrived, Army leaders decided that Task Force XII should return to Joint Base Balad and that Task Force 49 move to Baghdad International Airport to replace the redeploying 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade. This means that Task Force XII must RIP with 4th CAB and

Task Force 49; and while Task Force 49 is transferring authority to Task Force XII here, they must begin their RIP with 3rd CAB in BIAP.

### Still Confused?

After the TOA, Task Force XII will assume command of all the units that were once under Task Force 49 here. In BIAP, Task Force 49 will take charge of all the units under Task Force XII had in Taji, except for the redeploying Company F, 7th Bn., 101st Avn. Reg., and move to BIAP.

"It's a little (difficult) with so many moving pieces and so many teams out trying to set the conditions at the next location," said Maj. James Jones, the Task Force 49 operations officer and a native of Sultan, Wash. "What makes it hard is that you still have the mission here you are performing."

Moving hundreds of Soldiers from one place to another, while conducting operations in two different locations, is a task that both units must accomplish in conjunction with training their replacements and learning new roles.

"We have a good plan for training our replacements; we're going to train their senior guys first, and then help them train the less experienced guys," said 1st Lt. Nathan Greer, a platoon leader in Company C, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment and a native of Owasso, Okla. "They're going to get a lot of information thrown at them at one time, but I know they'll be ready to handle things when we

leave. Since we're still going to be a part of Task Force Storm, I don't think our operations will change that much when we move to BIAP."

When it comes to the RIP between Task Force XII and Task Force 49, the transition should be pretty smooth and painless, said Lt. Col. Richard Crogan, the Task Force 49 deputy commander and the future Task Force XII deputy commander.

### Linked at the Hip

"The two (headquarters) are really linked at the hip pretty closely," said Crogan. "So far, the transition has been highly successful because there was a great strategy between (both commanders) mixed with a lot of great work by a lot of great Soldiers."

While at Taji, Task Force XII units hauled more than 628 tons of cargo and 67,000 passengers, and in the process they flew nearly 6,600 missions with more than 23,400 hours in the air.

Performing three different RIPs in three different locations may seem like a confusing and difficult assignment, but each task force is working together to make this unusual task successful.

"We're making it work and I think it's going really well," said Jones. "Everyone's working together and they really understand this is a no fail mission. There's lots of good communication between all the units involved in this RIP process and everybody is doing the best they can to make these simultaneous operations successful."



## Welcome Home!

### 12th CAB Soldiers begin return home

Capt. Erik Claudio, trial defense officer with the Judge Advocate General in Katterbach, greets his son Erik Matthew and wife Alysha shortly after returning from a 12-month deployment in Iraq July 22. Along with Claudio, 13 12th Combat Aviation Brigade Soldiers returned to Katterbach for a brief welcome home ceremony at the Yellow Ribbon Room. The 12th CAB deployed to Iraq in early summer 2007 and is scheduled to return this fall.

Photo by Ronald H. Toland Jr.



# S2S reaches out to Schweinfurt students

by JOCELYN BRIGHT-SMITH  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

Bamberg Middle/High School will be substantially larger for the 2008-09 school year due in part to the closing of Wuerzburg High School, which accommodated teens from both Wuerzburg and Schweinfurt.

All Schweinfurt-based students will now attend Bamberg Middle/High School. In order to acquaint these new students with the Bamberg post, Kim Kozel, Bamberg's School Liaison Officer, in cooperation with the Schweinfurt SLO, Damon McGibboney, set up days for Schweinfurt students to visit Bamberg to learn

about the post and town.

Student-2-Student is a program designed to help new students become better acquainted with their new duty stations. Run by SLO Kim Kozel and Beverly Brinn, a Bamberg High School counselor, S2S focuses on new middle and high school students.

The S2S program objective is to provide relocating students with a "critical edge for a successful transition." S2S also provides peer assistance as new students are helped getting acquainted with their new schoolmates.

The first day of the tours began July 10. Three students from Schweinfurt (Brian Kirk, 11th grade; Luis Vidargas, 10th grade; and Ronald

Harris, 9th grade) were given an installation tour with the help of the Bamberg's S2S ambassadors.

The group kicked off the day's activities with a scavenger hunt which took them to the teen hot-spots throughout the garrison, including the library, Shoppette, high school, and teen center. They were given a special tour of the high school by secretary Suzanne Wills and registrar Monica Clark-Bailey.

At the Teen Center they received a tour of all the newest equipment and the newly renovated Teen Zone, Rock Climbing Wall, and the Interactive Zone.

After lunch, the Schweinfurt students and S2S

ambassadors took a tour of downtown Bamberg. They learned how to take public transport to the central downtown area where they walked around finding both shops and historical landmarks.

The next Bamberg tours for Schweinfurt-based middle and high school students will be held Aug. 11-13. A special welcome week will be held for all new Bamberg-based middle and high school students Aug. 18-21. Also, there will be S2S recruitment lunches during the school year for students who wish to join or have any ideas on how to make it better.

For more information, call Kim Kozel at CIV 0951-300-7891; stop by CYS Central Registration, Bldg. 7340; or call CIV 0951-300-7716.

# Team Dagger tackles multi-national competition

by Capt. JASON MEIER  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

Three Soldiers from the 54th Engineer Battalion recently participated in Grenadier 2008, a physically demanding Austrian partnership event June 30-July 4. The week-long exercise took place in the mountainous Carinthia region of Austria at the training area Marwiesen.

Thirty-six teams, representing 11 countries from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Czech Republic, Latvia, Italy and the United States, participated in the event.

With five days of activities, the participants tackled a wide array of military tasks while building lasting partnerships with other military forces throughout Europe.

Monday's events included a circuit training session where the Soldiers learned to fire Austrian weapons, properly wear their Nuclear-Biological-

Chemical equipment, load their AN/PRC-77 radio, and prime demolitions. The afternoon session included a timed orienteering course over steep terrain. The course required participants to conduct other tasks along the route such as swimming and Opposing Forces evasion.

Tuesday, the participants climbed the mountain Dobratsch, a 2,166-meter high mountain in the southern Austrian Alps. Each participant that completed the march earned the Edelweiss badge of the Austrian Mountain Infantry.

Wednesday, participants conducted a military skills competition. The circuit course contained numerous stations that included demolitions preparations, a grueling obstacle course, grenade toss, NBC chamber, a MG 74 machine gun range, a Steyr SSG 69 siper range, and a simulated Afghan militia check point negotiation station.

Thursday's events consisted of another circuit course that included

more tasks and weapons ranges. The participants received the chance to fire the PAR 66/79 Austrian anti-tank weapon, negotiate a combat engagement course against OPFOR with simunitions and conduct a medical evaluation of a downed pilot. The participants also received the chance to qualify on the Austrian Glock P80 pistol and the Sturmgewehr 77 A1 Infantry Rifle. Badges were awarded for successful qualification of the pistol and rifle.

Friday morning's activities included another orienteering course. The course varied between 10K-15K, depending on how well the participants navigated the course. The afternoon contained a ropes station where the participants slid down a rope, rappelled over a cliff, and rope crawled over a ravine.

An awards ceremony was held Friday evening at which time each team received a certificate of training. Plaques and bragging rights were given to the top three teams. The team from

the 54th Engineer Battalion placed a respectable 12th in the event and came in first place amongst the other four American teams. The ceremony concluded on the evening of the Fourth of July with a special tribute for the

American participants. The Austrian Army played a recording of the U.S. national anthem as the American flag was raised while a team of Austrian infantry men shot flairs into the night sky.



(From left) 2nd Lt. Michael Frazier, Sgt. Jesus Molinar, and Capt. Jason Meier from the 54th Engineer Battalion formed Team Dagger for the event. Courtesy photo

# 173rd ABCT Soldier awarded Silver Star in Afghanistan

Story and photo by  
Pfc. CHRISTINA SINDERS  
*CJTF-101 Public Affairs*

A 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Soldier earned a Silver Star for combat operations and was presented the medal during a July 12 ceremony at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, Combined Joint Task Force 101 commander, presented Capt. William G. Cromie with a Silver Star, the third highest military decoration, and praised him for his valor.

Cromie was recognized for his actions during an ambush on Nov. 16, 2007, while serving as platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 173rd Special Troops Battalion during a route clearance operation along the Korengal Road in Konar province.

The platoon was called out to perform route

clearance on a portion of the Korengal Road after receiving a tip that an improvised explosive device may have been placed there.

"While travelling down the road, our first vehicle struck an IED," said Cromie. "Immediately, we were ambushed on three sides by heavily-armed militants."

Two Soldiers managed to advance to an over-watch position to help cover the platoon, but were soon pinned down and running low on ammunition. Cromie personally moved more ammunition to the two Soldiers while running through the small-arms cross fire.

Finally, after receiving close-air support, the platoon was able to mount a counter-attack and pushed the militants back to a house. The platoon then cleared the house, killing the militants.

"I really would like to thank the squad leaders, they really acted professionally even under a stressful situation like that, and the guys in 3rd Platoon for their bravery," said Cromie.



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, Combined Joint Task Force 101 commander, presented the Silver Star to Capt. William G. Cromie for his actions during an ambush on Nov. 16, 2007. The Silver Star is the third highest military decoration.

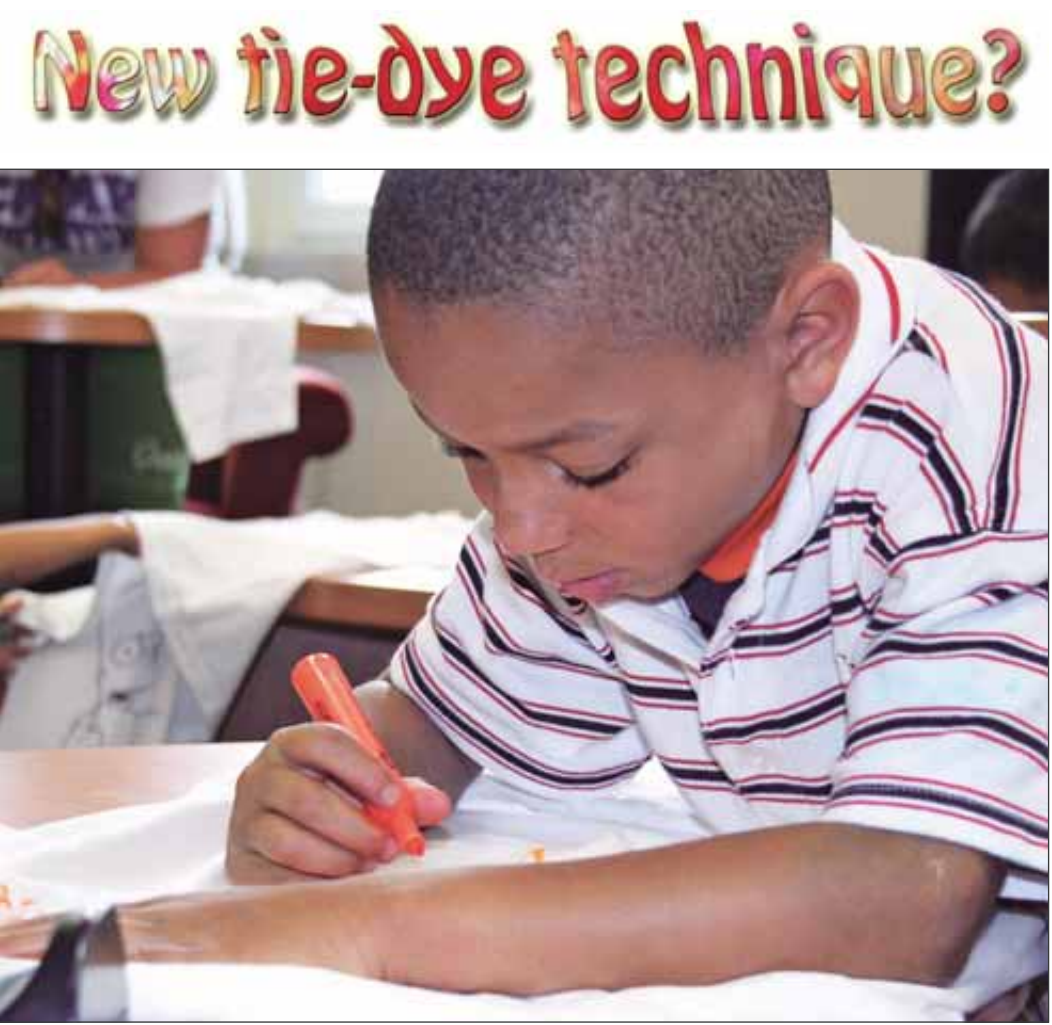


Photo by Jocelyn Bright-Smith

James Williams participated in School Age Students activities July 14. Williams and the other students used markers to design their own T-shirts. The activity, Sharpie Tie-dye, was one of many activities planned by the library to help kids ward off the summertime blues.

Check out the Bavarian News online! Visit [www.milcom.de](http://www.milcom.de) to search our archives, submit a free classified ad, or take a readership survey. Readers can send story ideas, complaints, or suggestions to [adriane.foss@us.army.mil](mailto:adriane.foss@us.army.mil)



# Rock 'n' Roll Emmy winner Gary Sinise performs at Schweinfurt

Story and photo by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**  
Bavarian News

The Lt. Dan Band played at Schweinfurt July 7 with a blend of rock, funk, soul, and pop covering the last 40 years of music, and then some.

Gary Sinise, star of the big and small screens in hits like Forest Gump and CSI: NY, co-founded the band, playing bass guitar and lending the name of one of his more famous screen personas to the band.

Sinise and Kimo Williams, a Vietnam veteran and composer, co-founded the Lt. Dan Band as a way to entertain troops and veterans, touring with the United Service Organizations overseas and performing stateside on military bases and in veterans' hospitals.

In addition to his work with the Lt. Dan Band, Sinise travels on his own to visit deployed Soldiers. It was on one such trip in 2003 that Sinise formed the seed of an idea that would grow into another goodwill project known as Operation Iraqi Children.

"When I went to Iraq on my second tour in November of 2003, I went out to visit the schools. The troops took me out to these schools they had rebuilt and refurbished," Sinise explained.

What struck him immediately was how scarce basic school supplies such as paper and pencils were. After returning home, Sinise gathered supplies and sent them to Iraq for the Soldiers with whom he had toured to distribute.

"They videotaped it all and sent it to me. I saw it and thought this would be a great way

to help the troops interact with the kids around Iraq," said Sinise.

That seed grew into OIC, which in 2004 began shipping school supply kits for American troops to hand out in Iraqi schools.

"The troops can't seem to get enough ... and now we're shipping to Afghanistan," Sinise said.

Last fall, 2,048 school supply kits made their way to Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. Those supply kits were flown by helicopter to FOB Naray, where Soldiers from the Schweinfurt-based 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne) took charge of them.

"The supplies were distributed to the Naray and Nishigam Schools," wrote Squadron Chaplain Kelly O'Lear in an e-mail about his squadron. O'Lear and most of the 1-91 Cav. are wrapping up their mission in Afghanistan now, but more supplies are en route, according to O'Lear.

But whether it's rocking out on Kessler Field, touring the front lines in Iraq, or gathering supplies for needy children, Sinise feels that it is his "purpose to help our Soldiers out."

With the Lt. Dan Band, that help comes in the form of musical entertainment. With OIC, Sinise hopes to help "extend the hand of friendship" between Soldiers and the children affected by military operations.

"(OIC) helps the kids see that Soldiers are not just people that carry guns, but ... can be helpful and beneficial to them as well," Sinise said.

For more information about the Lt. Dan



Actor/musician Gary Sinise (right) plays bass with The Lt. Dan Band.

Band's efforts to support the troops, visit [www.ltband.com](http://www.ltband.com). To learn more about OIC, or to see how you too can help, visit [www.operationiraqchildren.org](http://www.operationiraqchildren.org).

[www.operationiraqchildren.org](http://www.operationiraqchildren.org).

"It is heartwarming," he said, "to see how the supplies help troops help the kids."

## Thrift Store reopens after block leave

Story and photo by **KIMBERLY GEARHART**  
Bavarian News

The Thrift Store on Ledward Barracks is open for business with new, more convenient hours, and a wide variety of items for sale.

Operated by the Schweinfurt Community Spouses Club, the Thrift Store sells donated or consigned gently-used items, with proceeds being returned to the community in the form of welfare grants from the club, explained Carol Haager, SCSC president.

Welfare grants can be awarded to individuals in need of assistance buying food or paying for school, for example, or organizations looking to fund group functions or event T-shirts.

The Thrift Store is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and the first and third Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday from noon to 5 p.m. Donations are accepted at any time, and consignments are accepted Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"If they call ahead on Thursday or Saturday and let us know, we can usually accommodate them," said Alexandra Stanard, the store manager. Consigned items are sold for the customer, with 25 percent of the sale going to the store, and 75 percent to the consigning party.

Throughout the year as the inventory changes, the guidelines for what will be accepted on consignment



Diana Nash sorts through baby clothes for her daughter Crystal at the Schweinfurt Thrift Store.

changes as well. Winter clothing and transformers, for example, are not being accepted now due to space constraints and inventory levels. A sign posted at the consignment window alerts patrons to which items may not be consigned at any given time.

"The Thrift Store is self-sustaining, and does not receive financial assistance from the U.S. Army or non-appropriated funds," Haager said, noting that aside from the manager and one cashier, the work involved in maintaining the store is handled largely by volunteers.

Volunteering at the Thrift Store has its advantages as well. The SCSC will provide up to 20 hours of child care per month for volunteers working in the store, and Family Readiness Groups with two or more volunteers can earn \$50 rewards.

"We also track volunteer hours. They get credit through the local volunteer programs," Stanard said.

Volunteers at the Thrift Store also get first shot at consigned and donated items, she added.

For more information, call the store during business hours at DSN 354-6723 or CIV 09721-96-6723.

## Local youth learn 'tech' in ACS class

by **LINDSEY COLE**  
Bavarian News

Army Community Service gave youth, grades six through nine, the opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge about today's computer software and technology.

Participants were exposed to programs such as computer basics, Windows XP, basic Microsoft Word, basic Web Design, and PowerPoint. These classes are not offered in school to their age group; they are high school level classes. Part of the ACS's goal is to give younger students a head start on high school.

"I've been to all the classes so far, and it's really fun. I knew about

computers before, but I've learned a lot more here. I liked learning about building my own computer, it's helpful for the future," said 13-year-old Beau Timmons, who participated in all the classes of the week.

Course instructor Grete Timmons has been teaching computer classes for the past seven years. She has obtained an international European computer driving license, which is a nationally certification for computers. She's a contracted instructor for ACS, with the goal of helping youth understand that learning about computers can be fun.

"I want to help kids learn in a fun way, so it doesn't feel like a drag. It's great to see them at the end of the class with that little twinkle in their eye that

they learned something...I think that right now these kids are on a level where they can gain confidence and take away that fear of 'oh I might do something wrong' and they'll just be open and go for it," Timmons said.

Another reason for offering the class during the summer is so that kids will not just let the time drift away, but instead will learn and have fun.

"It's great to see kids learning something that may impact their future instead of just running the streets being bored and wasting their time," said Timmons.

If family members are interested in upcoming classes or have suggestions for classes, they should call ACS at DSN 354-6732.

## GIVING BACK

# Wuerzburg graduate teaches Schweinfurt youth unique art

Story and photo by **LINDSEY COLE**  
Bavarian News

Young artists living overseas may experience limitations in the availability of art programs. Last week in accordance with the Youth Center's Camp Challenger summer program's "Art of Life" week, Jessica Allison, a 2006 Wuerzburg American High School graduate, visited the Schweinfurt Youth Center and volunteered to teach art classes.

Allison focused on styles called "manga" and "anime" which originated in Japan. Most fans can recognize it by the characters' big eyes and unique faces.

"It's not like American cartoons," she said.

Allison became interested in this type of art in elementary school.

"I really liked the cartoon Sailor Moon, seeing that kind of female hero. I figured being that kind of hero was impossible, so the best I could do was draw!" she said.

These types of art are very well known, however participation varies because it's so unique. There have been participants who have floated in and out of the class, but the ones

who are enthusiastic and hunger for the knowledge have been there from start to finish.

"Some people think art is boring. To us it's a fun place where you can express yourself with people you have something in common with and just have fun," said Camilla Huettner.

"It helps that we have a very interesting and very fun teacher," added Anna Moskowicz.

Last week the group worked on a big comic book. Each person, with the guidance and help from Allison, made their own comics and placed them into a scrapbook format.

To celebrate their progress the Youth Center sponsored a Japanese style barbeque.

The staff and participants took a trip to the commissary and let the youth select the food they desired for this event. Each participant chose an admired character from a comic and role-played the character, complete with costume.

"This is a great example of how we try to integrate community resources into enhancing our program to cater to our kids," said Debra Brock.

"I love this program...you can get better, and get opinions from others," said Dustin D'Adda.



Teacher Jessica Allison (right) and participant Dustin D'Adda take part in writing their comic book while in "character."



# 15th Eng. back to life after 17-year absence

by **LINDSEY COLE & KIMBERLY GEARHART**  
*Bavarian News*

It has been 17 years since the colors of the 15th Engineer Battalion have flown. They were unfurled once more on Conn Barracks during a July 16 activation ceremony officially bringing the 15th Eng. Bn. to Schweinfurt.

Lt. Col. David E. Hurley Jr. and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley J. Houston uncased their unit colors with a little help from the battalion's last acting command sergeant major, retired 1st Sgt. Charles M. Twardzicki, helping link the engineers' past and present.

Army transformation has mandated many changes to the face of the U.S. Army in Europe. With bases closing and brigades moving in and out of Germany, an activation ceremony at Schweinfurt serves as a reminder that not all changes are directed at downsizing.

"It's really a breath of fresh air to see the battalion come to life here in Schweinfurt," said Lt. Gen. Kenneth Hunzeker, V Corps commander, noting that many of the ceremonies he's attended lately have been casing colors, either for moves, deactivation, or deployment.

Hurley, who now commands the

fledgling battalion, is faced with a flock of new Soldiers, many fresh out of basic training.

"It's a challenge for them to come to a unit with no experience," he noted. However, the 15th Eng. Bn. leadership is working to reorganize internally to insure that its leadership assets are put into play effectively, Hurley said.

One Soldier in the battalion, Pfc. Harrison Jones, feels the battalion leadership is ready for the challenge.

"My chain of command is top-notch. As we activate this new unit, I expect new opportunities, new adventures," he said.

And although adventure may not be forthcoming, deployment is likely in the near future.

"We ... will once again bring (the battalion) back to life in order to get the unit and Soldiers ready for combat. Make no mistake about it," Hunzeker said. The 15th Eng. Bn. is a combat engineer battalion, and will be used as such.

Citing his battalion's lengthy history, Hurley concurred with Hunzeker's assertion.

"The 15th Eng. Bn. has been called on to fight for its principles time and again. I believe that somewhere in the Pentagon there's an instruction that reads: 'face a war, activate the 15th Engineer Battalion,'" he said.



Photo by Lindsey Cole

**Lt. Col. David Hurley Jr. (left), Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Houston, and retired 1st Sgt. Charles Twardzicki uncased the 15th Engineer Battalion's colors in Schweinfurt July 16.**

## German army, air force train with 172nd STB

by **MARK HEETER**  
*USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief*

The quest for knowledge crosses national borders and military uniforms – and makes NATO a little bit better, one soldier at a time.

Nadine Steindorf and Fabian Rasch, warrant officer cadets in the German air force and army, respectively, are training with the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade, which is preparing to deploy to Iraq.

"We're here to support the allies. If that's what they want us to do, they can come here to train with us," said Michael Cormier, the 172nd SIB partnership officer.

Cormier, who has known Rasch for several years, took a request from the infantryman last year.

"When he became a cadet, he asked me if it would be possible to do an on-the-job training here in Schweinfurt, either at the brigade or one of the battalions," Cormier said.

"My intention was to increase my speaking knowledge for operations, because the NATO standard operating language is English," said Rasch, who has been spending his four-week stint with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment.

Steindorf, who spent a year training in Fort Bliss, Texas, echoed Rasch's sentiments about serving with other nations' militaries – and practicing English.

"It's one of the most important parts of the German military to work with different nations," she said. "I know my job in the German air force,

and I want to get more experience."

Steindorf is spending two weeks in Grafenwoehr with the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, following two weeks with the unit in Schweinfurt.

"I want to get the experience of how the Americans work," she said.

Rasch has focused his interest on the preparations Soldiers and units undertake before a deployment – as well as the combat-tested American Soldiers.

"They just came back and are very experienced, and they know pretty much what is going on, and it is good to see how it works," Rasch said. "They're pretty young and have much more experience than a 21-year-old German soldier."

Both American and German militaries take something valuable from such exchange programs, Cormier said.

"I think the benefit is for both. He (Rasch) gets his hands wet on interoperability training to see how the U.S. Army functions getting ready to a major exercise then onto Iraq. And the U.S. Soldiers just get the benefit of having a NATO ally training with them. I mean it's joint."

The opportunity is not lost on Steindorf and Rasch.

"I'm living it for four weeks, and that's more than any lesson can give me. You can learn everything, but you can't feel it," Rasch said. "So I learn a lot just by talking to corporals, to sergeants."

## Pre-separation briefings aid transition to civilian

by **MARK HEETER**  
*USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief*

Anyone who has received a DD 214, certificate of release from active duty, is likely to agree with Clinton Abrams, senior transition specialist for the U.S. Army garrisons at Schweinfurt, Ansbach and Bamberg.

And anyone who is on the verge of separating from the military – retiree, regular separation, medical board, chapter – will go through Abrams to get to the gold.

"We are the last stop for people separating from the Army," Abrams said, in his second floor office in Bldg. 40 on Conn Barracks.

Forget what you've heard about the importance of all that paperwork you have acquired in the Army, Abrams said.

"Now you've got your DD 214. This is the one you need to worry about. Call it a snapshot of your military career," he said, noting that job and benefit applications still rely heavily on the document.

"The 214 will follow you forever. It's like your degree," said Victoria Nelson, transitional specialist.

In order to get there, Abrams advises Soldiers to begin the process and attend a pre-separation briefing early – six to seven months prior to separation, if possible.

"It's required for all Soldiers who are separating, with the exception of retirees," who have a unique briefing, Abrams said.

While the process varies from unit to unit and between communities, the basic goal of helping Soldiers should remain the same, according to Abrams and Nelson.

"We would rather let the Soldier come and have us brief them properly," Nelson said, rather than allow separating Soldiers to rely on "barracks lawyers" to guide them through the transition.

"We're here to help the Soldiers," she said.

The next pre-separation briefing is scheduled for Aug. 7.

## Reset means extended hours, additional activities in place

by **MARK HEETER**  
*USAG Schweinfurt CI Chief*

The business recreation division of the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, has many new hot deals spread around the Schweinfurt community. Several programs and activities are part of the reset program for the re-deploying Soldiers, although all listings are available to all ID cardholders, according to David Luellwitz, BRD chief.

The Finney Fitness Center has extended its hours until midnight Fridays and Saturdays through September. Morning and evening spinning classes are offered weekly at both locations.

The Auto Crafts shop has expanded hours on Sundays through September, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also at Auto Crafts, free bay usage will be offered Tuesdays through September. Free assistance to jumpstart autos in storage is offered

as well to Soldiers returning from downrange.

At the Crafts Studio on Ledward Barracks, patrons can take \$10 off on all crafts classes, and free family ceramics and pottery are offered through September.

The Kessler Bowling center is offering free bowling every Wednesday through September and free batting cage use every Thursday through September, as part of reset activities for Soldiers returning from deployment.

Outdoor recreation on Conn Barracks offers free paint ball every Saturday through September from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additionally, outdoor recreation offers specials throughout the summer, including trips to Europa-Park, rock climbing, high roping, white-water rafting, and more.

Throughout the fall, many special activities, from go-kart racing and pool tournaments to free trips and gaming tournaments, will be available through Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers at Finney Recreation Center.

Call each facility for more information.

## XBOX 360 Halo tournament boosts BOSS morale July 10

Story and photo by **LINDSEY COLE**  
*Bavarian News*

The Schweinfurt Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program gave Soldiers a chance to unleash their inner "Master Chiefs" during an XBOX 360 Halo tournament at Finney Recreation Center July 10.

Microsoft's Halo 3 is a wildly popular first-person shooter video game. The science fiction story involves the waging of an interstellar war led by the human "United Nations Space Command" against the "Covenant," a collection of alien races in the 26th century.

Halo players take on the role of "Master Chief," a cybernetics-



**Soldiers compete during a Halo 3 videogame competition at the Finney Recreation Center.**

enhanced super soldier fighting for humankind.

The player fights with the assistance of Master Chief's Marines and allied alien "Elites."

"It's cool playing the game as a Soldier, but it also helps form more of a bond between you and your friends,"

said Spc. Dean Kincaid.

Halo 3 is the most recent installment in the videogame trilogy and features weapons, vehicles, and other aspects not included in the two earlier editions.

"I think that the game is cool; it helps keeps my Soldiers out of trouble.

When I know they're playing the game, I know they're not out doing something stupid," said Sgt. Carlos Elleb jokingly.

Additionally, the tournament gave Soldiers and family members a chance to check out the newly renovated Finney Recreation Center, which features a gaming center that includes XBOX 360 stations.

"I'm not here to play, but I really like to watch! It's very entertaining," said family member Angel Castaneda.

The tournament, sponsored by the Stars and Stripes Gamer Magazine, gave Soldiers an opportunity to compete and win prizes.

The first place winner received an XBOX 360 elite gaming system.

Second and third place winners received \$250 and a \$100 gift card, respectively. Top prize for the night went to Pfc. Robert Wilson, a self-proclaimed "huge Halo fan."

"Yeah it's a pretty big deal because there's more to it than people realize because they keep coming out with new stuff for the game... I'm pretty focused when I play," said Wilson, "but it's more fun when players play well because it brings more of a challenge."

"(Halo) makes the time go by faster while being over here away from home," said Pfc. Jacob Hawk.

The next Halo 3 tournament is scheduled for Sept. 9 in the Finney Recreation Center.



# All molds are not created equal

by Capt. MATTHEW T. PERRY  
Chief Environmental Health Services

Molds are always present in the environment and for most people they do not pose a health risk.

Molds are a type of fungus. They grow by creating microscopic spores that float through the air. The spores are common both indoors and outdoors. Because of their incredibly small size, it is impossible to completely rid your home or work environment of them. Molds are capable of feeding on a wide range of material and require a water (moisture) source for survival.

The media commonly refers to harmful mold as being “black mold” or “toxic mold” but this is not accurate. There are more than 100,000 different species of molds throughout the world, and they come in many different colors, such as black, green, yellow, orange, brown, and white.

There are harmless and harmful molds, some of which may be black or have other colors, so no one can tell which is which strictly by color. Of the approximately 1,000 common household molds studied, less than 200 have been identified as being harmful to humans.

According to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, about 10 percent of the general population, and 40 percent of people with asthma have fungal allergies.

For people sensitive to mold, the most common reaction will be characteristic of hay fever-like symptoms: red, itchy eyes, runny nose, headache, and fever. For people with asthma, exposure to molds can make their asthma worse, but there is no evidence that mold exposures cause asthma. People with weakened immune systems or chronic lung diseases are also at an increased risk of developing fungal infections in their lungs.

## The Facts on Fungus

- Not all molds are harmful.
- Harmful molds cannot be identified by visual inspection alone; regardless of the type of mold it is, the remediation steps are the same.
- Mold MUST have water (moisture) to survive. Eliminate the water source and you will eliminate the mold problem.
- Clean mold with soap and water or a bleach solution and allow to dry.
- Mold remediation is not complete until the water (moisture) source is identified and eliminated.
- Different people will react differently to exposure to mold. The health issue must be addressed on an individual basis between the

person and their health care provider. Therefore, if you suspect you or your family’s health is being affected by mold in the home or workplace, discuss this with a health care provider so an accurate diagnosis can be made.

■ For additional information, visit the USACHPPM (<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/mold/>), CDC (<http://www.cdc.gov/mold/>), EPA (<http://www.epa.gov/mold/>), and the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (<http://www.acoem.org/guidelines.aspx?id=850>) Web sites; or you can e-mail [t.perry@us.army.mil](mailto:t.perry@us.army.mil) or call DSN 476-3216.

It is well documented that some molds are capable of producing toxins that can cause serious illnesses. Usually this occurs from eating foods contaminated with high levels of these mold toxins.

Because it is known that molds can cause disease and illness in some people, it is strongly recommended that steps be taken to prevent mold growth. If it is found at home or at work, it should be removed as quickly and safely as possible.

If it is suspected that mold in the home or workplace is making you sick, it is important to discuss this with your health care provider so a correct diagnosis can be made and an adequate assessment of the problem can be conducted by a professionally trained public health official.

In most cases, it is not necessary to request

mold sampling be done since each person may react differently to different levels of mold in their environment and since there is no established “safe” levels of mold to compare data against.

Since mold spores are found everywhere, because exposure risks in most people are minimal, and because response to exposure may be variable, all molds should be treated the same when found.

It is impossible to completely remove all molds from the indoors, so the key to mold control is moisture control. USACHPPM recommends that indoor humidity not exceed 60 percent. Using fans while cooking and showering can help so long as they are vented to the outside.

Any remediation work must ensure the source of water that caused the problem has been completely identified and eliminated. Be aware, however, that molds damage what they grow on, so the longer they grow, the more damage they are likely to cause.

For small jobs, about 10 square feet, it is usually not necessary to call in a professional. Surfaces with mold growing on them should be scrubbed with detergents and water or a bleach solution of one cup of bleach to one gallon of water (Caution: Never mix bleach with other cleaning solutions as the chemicals could react and be extremely dangerous).

Be sure to allow the material time to dry completely. Porous or absorbent material may need to be discarded as the cleaning agents may not be able to get deep down enough to kill all of the mold spores. Remember that if the water source that caused the mold to grow in the first place is not corrected, it is highly likely that the mold will grow back.

Additionally, do not paint or caulk moldy surfaces. Clean the mold first and allow the material to completely dry before painting or caulking. Moldy stuffed furniture probably cannot be cleaned and may need to be discarded.

For larger areas or for cleaning items with sentimental or high value, you may wish to consult a professional or specialist. Be sure to notify the housing office of any problems that would require professional remediation.

The Environmental Protection Agency has outlined steps that should be taken to remediate larger (as well as smaller) projects in its publications titled, A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home and Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings. Both of these are available free from the EPA’s Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldguide.html>.

# Katterbach clinic announces reintegration changes

Special to the Bavarian News

The U.S. Army Katterbach Health Clinic will be fully supporting the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade’s upcoming reintegration.

Much of the health clinic staff will be focused on reintegration operations, which will limit the availability of appointments. Routine and wellness appointments will not be available from the end of August to the beginning of October.

The health clinic will continue to provide sick-call coverage and will have limited same-day appointments for acute care issues.

Urgent and emergent care will continue to be provided by the nearby host nation medical facilities and providers. If your condition is not an emergency, call the health clinic to get a referral on the economy, as needed.

For patients that are on chronic medication, we advise you to get your prescriptions refilled before the end of August.

If you are due for a Well Woman exam, call the health clinic before the end of August.

Families who are PCSing and are currently enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program should get their records screened as

soon as possible. The Soldier’s PCS orders cannot be processed until their EFMP screening has been updated.

Our goal is to quickly and safely reintegrate returning Soldiers to their families.

We need your cooperation to make it a smooth reintegration process. We greatly appreciate your understanding and continued support as we welcome home our Soldiers! We are here to serve!

Call DSN 467-3398 or CIV 09802-83-3398 and select the appropriate service from the menu.

## August Health Assessments

Katterbach Health Clinic has scheduled two additional school and sports health assessment days on Aug. 7 and 14. We encourage all parents to call the health clinic as soon as possible to schedule these appointments for their children.

Please be sure to keep the appointments; show up 15 minutes prior so that we can assist as many patients as is possible with their health care needs.

Call DSN 467-3398 or CIV 09802-83-3398 and select the appropriate service from the menu.

## GARRISON SNAPSHOT



Courtesy photo

## 173rd Reintegration

Spc. Juleene Jackson, a lab technician at the Bamberg Health Clinic, draws Pfc. Shawn Ladyman’s blood during the reintegration process of the 173rd Special Troops Battalion. The 173rd has just returned from their deployment to Afghanistan. As part of their reintegration, Soldiers need to be medically cleared to return to their at-home positions. Follow up with the rest of the story of the Bamberg Warrior Transition Unit and how the medical community is helping these Soldiers in the Aug. 20 issue of the Bavarian News. You can also access more WTU stories from the Bavarian News online archive at [www.milcom.de](http://www.milcom.de).



# Help when you need it



## Talk with a nurse—day or night

Whether it’s a sick child in the middle of the night or a minor weekend injury, health care questions don’t stick to a schedule. TRICARE’s Nurse Advice Line lets you talk to a nurse 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No call-backs, no waiting. Our nurses can help by:

- Scheduling an appointment with your military provider
- Offering self-care advice to help you feel better now
- Arranging for your healthcare provider to call you
- Advising emergency care if necessary

Call the TRICARE Nurse Advice Line any time at

# 00800-4759-2330



[www.europe.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.europe.tricare.osd.mil)





photo by Michelle Bragg

**Summer Golf Classic** (From left) Dennis Franklin and David Caples wait as teammate Zach Taylor prepares to putt. Along with fourth team member Jim Jones, they finished third overall at the USAG Hohenfels Summer Golf Classic at the Lauterhofen Golf Course July 11. Forty-eight golfers participated in 12 four-person teams. Team awards included first place: John Cavanaugh, Gary Bloomberg, Dan Roberts, and Burt Verhaar; second place: Greg Fobell, Josh Rocha, Rich Beiter, and Dick Cooper; and third place: David Caples, Zach Taylor, Jim Jones, and Dennis Franklin. Individual awards went to Tammi Wiegand for female longest drive, Greg Fobell for male longest drive, and Jeff Green for male closest to the pin.

# Former Great Britian National coach shares love of the game with Schweinfurt students

Story and photo by LINDSEY COLE  
Bavarian News

U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt’s Child and Youth Services hosted a baseball skills clinic July 7-8 at Kessler Field.

Former Great Britian National coach Ralph Rago shared his knowledge and skills with the youth of Schweinfurt.

Drawing on his 63 years of baseball experience, Rago toured Europe as part of a Morale, Welfare and Recreation program that helps youth develop sports skills.

He played in high school, college, and during his time serving in the Army. In 1996 his Great Britain team won the European Championship.

Although Rago has coached overseas before, this is his first time coaching overseas for Armed Forces dependents.

“I was at a baseball competition and someone came up to me and said, ‘Hey Rago, do you want to coach in Europe this summer?,’ and I said yeah!”

“My greatest benefit is to see the kids develop and some even achieve to the next level two of my players play for the big leagues. That’s a good feeling,” Rago said.

The kids began by properly warming up with stretching exercise

and some running. They anticipated the idea of hitting the ball as far as they could or throwing it across the field.

Whatever their drive was, it was clear to Daniel Jones, CYS sports director, they couldn’t wait to improve and play.

“There was good participation. As with any program, the better the turnout, the greater the value,” Jones said.

The baseball camp focused on improving running, catching, throwing, batting, teamwork, and healthy competition.

The youth benefitted from the practice and skill they were gaining through Rago’s knowledge and passion for the game.

“I am very grateful to the coach’s for their commitment to the cause and the heart and soul they poured into the youth of Schweinfurt to teach the fundamentals,” said Jones.

The clinic was offered to School Aged Services children on Monday, and to middle and high school children on Tuesday. Each day they developed skills appropriate to their age group.

“I really enjoy this,” said 8-year-old A’meer J. McClendon. “It gives me a chance to practice. My favorite part is practicing catching. I hope the next sport we do is football.” said

For more information about upcoming CYS sports events, call DSN 354-6822, or DSN 354-6974 for SAS events.



(From left) Bryce Andrews, coach Ralph Rago and Demetrius Lindsey practice batting exercises.

# 1st ICT wins local tourney, prepares for USAREUR championship

by MARY MARKOS  
Bavarian News

The 1st Inland Cargo Transportation Company softball team is prepping for the U.S. Army-Europe Unit Level Softball Championship held at the Grafenwoehr Fitness Center tomorrow through Sunday, after clinching the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr unit level title July 17.

The team, which finished the regular season with five losses, was undefeated throughout the tournament, beating 7th Army Joint Multination Training Command Headquarters and Headquarters Co. team, 10-6, for the title.

Mike Bradfish, Morale, Welfare and Recreation sports programmer, said hosting the tournament during the week may have helped the 1st CTC clinch the title.

“They were able to get all their players together,” he said. “They had a full team



Courtesy photo

**The 1st ICT Co. won the USAG Graf unit level title July 17 in what was the biggest softball season the garrison has hosted in nine years.**

with 18 players and two coaches. Most teams had only 10 to 12 players. The more players you’ve got... the more options you have.”

Bradfish said a cheering crowd may have also helped to motivate the team.

“1st CTC always had 10 to 20 people cheering for them. I think it helped a lot for the team’s morale. They were about the only team that had fans out there,” he said.

Fans of the 561st Medical Co. and 23rd Ordinance Co. may have been surprised by their team’s tournament results.

While both teams entered into the four-day double-elimination tournament with

only one loss, they finished fifth and third place respectively.

Fourth place went to the 12th Chemical Co. team.

Bradfish said that regardless of the tournament results, the season was a success.

“This was the biggest softball season we’ve hosted in Grafenwoehr in the last nine years. We started with 15 teams,” he said.

The co-ed sports teams, he added, are important in generating solidarity both on and off the field.

“We hope that it builds unit cohesion and unit morale,” he said.



## Sports Briefs

### Volunteer Coaches Needed!

Youth Sports & Fitness is in need of volunteer coaches for the upcoming fall sports season.

There has been a large increase in the number of youth enrolled, and there are not enough coaches to cover all the teams.

Coaches are needed for soccer and cheerleading (both Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks) and tackle football (a strong need on Rose Barracks).

Anyone who is interested in coaching can contact the CYS Central Registration offices to fill out the background check paperwork and coaching application, or call DSN 476-4037 or e-mail [daniel.fraizer1@eur.army.mil](mailto:daniel.fraizer1@eur.army.mil).

### Spaces Open for CYS Outdoor Adventure, Garmisch Trip

There are still spaces available for the Youth Sports Outdoor Adventures Camps and the week-long Garmisch trip scheduled for August.

There will be two Outdoor Adventure camps Aug. 4-8 and Aug. 11-15. These camps feature a different outdoor sport every day: rappelling, caving, hiking, canoeing, and klettersteig.

Each day runs from our 9 a.m. pickup at the Vilseck ODR until approximately 2-4 p.m., depending on that day’s selected activity.

The Garmisch trip will feature several exciting activities, such as hiking the Partnach Gorge, traveling to the Zugspitz, and white-water rafting.

All activities are for youth in grades 6-12. Contact CYS Central Registration for more information.

### Tackle Football Conditioning Camp Monday through Aug. 8

The CYS Tackle Football Conditioning Camp will run Aug. 4-8 at the Memorial Fitness Center Field on Rose Barracks. Helmets will be issued Monday beginning at 5 p.m., and the camp will run from 6-8 p.m. The rest of the week, camp will run from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The location was a change from Dragoon Field. The camp is open to all youth registered for the tackle football program. All youth will be put through fun, yet taxing, drills that will get them ready for the start of the season.

Those youth who will not be able to attend any or all of the days of camp will still need to meet the required five days of conditioning before they will be allowed to participate in contact drills.

The Parent’s Meeting, originally scheduled for Aug. 8, following the conditioning camp, has been moved to Monday at 5:30 p.m. at the Memorial Fitness Center Field.

All important information regarding the season and teams will be covered (exception: the tackle football game schedule will not be finalized until Aug.15).

### Tackle Football Officials Clinic Scheduled Aug. 21-23

There will be a tackle football official’s clinic Aug. 21-23 for anyone interested in officiating CYS tackle football this fall.

National Federation of State High School Associations and CYS specific rules, as well as mechanics, professionalism and situational awareness, will be covered in the classroom in Bldg. 224, Rose Barracks, 6-9 p.m., Aug. 21-22. There will be a practical exercise Aug. 23, to give all officials a chance to try out what they learned on the field.

For more information, contact Dan Fraizer at DSN 476-4037 or [daniel.fraizer1@eur.army.mil](mailto:daniel.fraizer1@eur.army.mil).

### Coaches Clinic set at Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center

There will be a day-long clinic for all volunteer CYS coaches (tackle football, soccer and cheerleading) at the Vilseck Memorial Fitness Center & Field on Aug. 16.

The clinic will run from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. with a break for lunch and will cover National Youth Sports Coaches Association certification, practical coaching and CPR/ First Aid training.

For more information, contact Dan Fraizer at DSN 476-4037 or [daniel.fraizer1@eur.army.mil](mailto:daniel.fraizer1@eur.army.mil).